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LD1108124688 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Shamir Speech—"Demented" people who promote the idea of establishing a Palestinian "government" will encounter an "iron fist" which will not leave even a trace of their efforts, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Knesset in a 10 August speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio. He stressed there is a "national consensus" in Israel against negotiations with the PLO, "a murderous organization whose sole objective is to annihilate the State of Israel," and against the establishment of a second Arab state on Israel's eastern border. Israel will continue to strive for peace on the basis that "between the sea and the desert there will only be two states—a Jewish state with Jerusalem as its capital and an Arab one with its capital east of the Jordan River," he said.

On Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank, Shamir said this harms the Arab residents rather than Israel, contending that the Jordanian measures are the result of "hostility" between King Husayn and the PLO and are "aimed primarily at the PLO." Israel is "sorry for the suffering that will be inflicted upon the population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza due to the Jordanian measures," he asserted. The prime minister stressed that Jordan's move did not create a legal vacuum because the current apparatus in the area continues to operate. Israel has "rights in everything pertaining to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza," he claimed, and there is "no doubt" that the task of administering these areas and maintaining law and order in them "lies with the State of Israel alone."

Shamir reaffirmed his view that the Camp David Accords are the best framework for peace, maintaining that the root of the Arab-Israeli problem is the Arabs' refusal to recognize Israel's existence. Syria still continues to threaten war, he said, and the PLO leadership continues to inflict "one disaster after another on its people amid extremism, insanity, and thirst for Jewish blood."

During a cabinet session the same day, Shamir engaged in "sharp exchanges" with Alignment ministers, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that "for the first time" Shamir expressed support for "implementing Israeli law in all of Eretz Yisra'el." According to the radio, Shamir said he does not favor the term "annexation" as this is a "harsh expression" and "one does not annex what belongs to one anyway." However, Shamir subsequently stated in an IDF radio interview that this report was a "malicious misinterpretation," stressing that Israel must honor its international commitments and will "not effect any unilateral moves, such as imposing Israeli law on areas which should be the subject of negotiations."

West Bank Security—A 17-year-old Arab youth was shot dead when a soldier in an IDF water truck fired at stonethrowers in the village of Tubas, Jerusalem radio reported. An IDF soldier was wounded by a firebomb in another incident in Ramallah.

Palestinian Affairs

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared that Libya is ready to pay the salaries of West Bank Palestinians who were laid off as a result of King Husayn's measures. He urged the Arab nation to pool all its resources to support the Palestinian uprising with funds, arms, and moral and political backing. The Libyan leader also expressed support for the establishment of a "revolutionary, provisional Palestinian government" and the unification of all Palestinian resistance forces into one "liberation army," adding that "liberation must be from the river to the sea."

The formation of a Palestinian "government-in-exile" and the declaration of a Palestinian "state" will be discussed by PLO officials after forthcoming PLO-Jordanian talks in Amman have established a "formula" to deal with the new situation created by Jordan's moves, PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim disclosed to Radio Monte Carlo. Milhim is a member of the PLO delegation which is scheduled to arrive in Amman 12 August.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Any future talks with Iraq will "only be within the framework of the 1975 Algiers agreement," Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated in remarks cited by IRNA. Velayati asserted that any Iraqi claim to full sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab will be "quite hollow," adding that "no patriotic Iranian will ever accept it."

In another diplomatic development, TASS reported that the Arab League seven-member committee on the Iran-Iraq conflict arrived in Moscow and held talks with Petr Demichev, alternate member of the CPSU Political Bureau. The conversation included an in-depth discussion of ways of "deblocking" the conflict and achieving a lasting peace. The Kuwaiti member of the committee, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, told KUNA earlier that the UN Security Council must achieve a "sequential enforcement" of Resolution 598, adding that if the direct talks fail, the superpowers should "pressure" the party which is "not prepared to achieve peace" and which "exploited" the UN resolution to realize a truce.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti amir sent a message congratulating Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on reaching a cease-fire, KUNA noted.

Iraqi official Taha Yasin Ramadan continued his tour of Arab states, meeting with King Hassan II in Morocco, according to Rabat radio. In an Egyptian press interview cited by MENA, Ramadan called for a "more frank and clear Arab stand toward Syria's treacherous position." Syria's AL-BA'TH denounced Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in an editorial cited by Damascus radio, stating that this "executioner" will be overthrown when the Iraqi people realize the magnitude of the "catastrophe caused by Saddam's crazy war."

Egypt

U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's talks with President Husni Mubarak were "very positive," according to a government official cited by Cairo radio. A Foreign Ministry official who discussed regional issues with Murphy said Egypt "explained" the role "which the United States must carry out" to contribute to the peace process, the radio stated.

Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said the proposed meeting between Murphy and Palestinian representatives was "postponed" in view of the "absence of agreement" among Palestinian personalities, MENA reported. Egypt made efforts to arrange the meeting because of the "desire on the part of the United States" to meet with "Palestinian officials," Al-Majid contended.

Lebanon

Hostages—An Iranian diplomat held "secret" talks in London 10 August with the Archbishop of Canterbury on the fate of British hostages, PRESS ASSOCIATION disclosed. Church officials would not comment on the talks, saying their remarks would be "open to misinterpretation," PRESS ASSOCIATION noted.

Security—A Syrian soldier was killed in a 10 August clash with "Hizballah elements" in southern Beirut, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed. In reprisal, the Syrians carried out "indiscriminate raids" and arrested "numerous people," the radio stated. Another Syrian soldier was killed in West Beirut after a dispute with "Kurdish gunmen," Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Israeli forces have deployed "large military reinforcements" along the border strip, according to Voice of National Resistance radio.

Sudan

The North Kurdufan region in western Sudan was added to the growing list of declared disaster areas after heavy flooding devastated hundreds of buildings, SUNA reported. Elsewhere in the country, railway lines in the north and east were "completely paralyzed" by heavy rains and floods, according to a railway official cited by SUNA. Khartoum hospitals have declared a state of emergency in light of the situation in the city, SUNA added. State Council members met with envoys from the international community, the UN, and international relief agencies to discuss necessary measures to tackle the disaster, SUNA disclosed. An Arab League delegation has arrived in Khartoum to assess the damage, the agency said, and the United Nations office in Khartoum has set up a commission to coordinate the international relief effort.

Afghanistan

Bamian city has been captured by rebels affiliated with the "Nasr organization," IRNA announced. A rebel source said Soviet and Afghan troops were captured in the fighting, IRNA added.

"Extremist" elements recently "penetrated a section" of Konduz and carried out "a series of disturbances and subversion," Kabul radio reported. Security forces have acted to "clear the surroundings" of "saboteurs and rebellious elements," the radio added.

One person was killed and three wounded in a series of rocket explosions 10 August in districts around Kabul airport, TASS noted. "Extremists" fired surface-to-surface missiles at Mehtarlam, killing four persons and injuring eight others, according to Kabul radio.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Congress Welcomes Iran-Iraq Ceasefire

LD1008213888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1907 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Jeddah, 10 Aug (SPA)—The Islamic Congress Organization welcomes the decision by Iraq and Iran to set a ceasefire date and then begin direct talks to end the destructive war which has been going on for some 8 years.

In a press statement released today, the organization expresses its deep appreciation of the efforts made by the UN secretary general to implement Resolution 598. It also expresses its appreciation of Iraq and Iran's response which has enabled the UN secretary general to announce the agreement on a ceasefire date.

The organization stresses that the Islamic world is pleased with this conclusion which puts an end to a war that has lasted too long between two Muslim neighbors. It expresses its hope that a comprehensive and just settlement will be reached between Iraq and Iran under the auspices of the UN secretary general, pointing out that such a comprehensive settlement will establish lasting peace between the two countries and will allow them to utilize their energies and capabilities to reconstruct what has been destroyed by the war.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on West Bank 'Disengagement,' Other Issues

JN1008181788 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 9 Aug 88 pp 1, 22

[By Fatimah Mansur]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said his talks with his highness the amir, chairman of the fifth ICO summit conference and one of the Arab leaders of whom the Palestinian people are proud, were constructive. He said his highness affirmed his clear stand which affirms that Kuwait—government and people—stands alongside the Palestinian people on all levels.

At a press conference at the PLO office yesterday evening, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said the disengagement of the legal and administrative relationship between the East and the West Banks is a separation which will have many repercussions on Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. He pointed to the U.S. official spokesman's statement following the Jordanian announcement which noted that the United States had prior knowledge of the Jordanian decison, but without details. Here, Abu 'Ammar wondered: Did the United States have prior knowledge, while we who are the party concerned are the last to know? He said Jordan informed the PLO leadership after the announcement of the decision.

Responding to a question by AL-ANBA' on whether the PLO can take full material and moral responsibility in the West Bank, especially since Jordan isn't thinking of relinquishing its decisions even if the PLO proves unable to shoulder the responsibility, Abu 'Ammar responded:

When did we fail to bear responsibilities? In Lebanon, where we were not supposed to be fighting alone, we shouldered our responsibilities. We now say we will be fully responsbile for our people wherever they are. However, we hope others will bear their responsibilties as we are doing. We will bear our responsibilities inside the occupied land, not through an agreement with the United States or its secretary of state, nor through deals. Our responsibilities will be through paying the blood toll in continuation of the path on which the PLO offered the best cadres and sacrificed the dearest leaders.

On the announcement of a government-in-exile, Abu 'Ammar said: This is up to the PLO legislative leadership to decide. The PLO executive leadership cannot decide to establish a government-in-exile. Anything of this sort must be presented with its details to the PNC. He affirmed there is a plan in this regard which has been presented from inside the occupied territories. He said this issue is now under discussion. He said any decison must pass through the PLO Central Council, which is considered the intermediary link between the PNC and the Executive Committee. He reaffirmed that the legislative authority is the only side which has the right to discuss and decide on a government-in-exile.

On whether the PLO Central Council has discussed the recent Jordanian decisions, 'Arafat said: The PLO Central Council, which held a meeting in Baghdad recently, issued decisions on escalating the uprising. We did not touch on the Jordanian decisions related to the Palestinian people in the West Bank because these new events came directly after the meeting. 'Arafat affirmed that the recent Jordanian measures will certainly have direct effects on the uprising.

Answering a question on the final cancellation of his visit to Amman at the present stage, Abu 'Ammar said: Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] will visit Jordan provided Jordan is ready for an open discussion. He affirmed Abu Mazin will not visit Amman if this condition is not met.

'Arafat noted that any decision taken by the PLO on the Palestinian cause and people is a strictly Palestinian decision. The PLO does not wait for anybody to make a decision. The PLO's option is a Palestinian one. He affirmed that the PLO is completely linked with the Palestinian option through the Arab resolutions issued by the Arab summit conferences.

On the information which the PLO had that some Arab countries knew about the Jordanian measures before they were issued, 'Arafat said: My answer is the following question: Has Jordan been dealing with the Palestinian

people throughout the past 40 years as employees or partners? This question is presented on Palestinian, Jordanian, Arab, and international levels.

Asked if the PLO will take a first step in the coming days to compensate for what the sons of the West Bank have lost as a result of the Jordanian measures which directly affect their daily life, Abu 'Ammar said: We will assume our full responsibilities on all levels.

Answering a question on whether the subject of the Palestinian passports to be issued by the Arab League and its implementation will be raised soon, the PLO Executive Committee chairman said: He who wants his homeland must endure. And this is our answer.

On Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's letter to the PLO leadership, 'Arafat said the message deals with the ongoing developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas, including the Gulf war.

Asked if he expects Egypt to make a decision similar to that of Jordan on the Gaza Strip, 'Arafat said: Egypt's relationship with Gaza is completely different and there is no way of comparison between the two relationships. Egypt considered Gaza as a trust and Gaza maintained its Palestinian identity. There was no legal relationship.

Answering a question on whether the end of the Iraq-Iran war came as a result of an agreement between the major powers, 'Arafat said: The Gulf war has ended because the military results produced a victory for the Iraqi brothers. And I mean exactly this.

Concluding, Abu 'Ammar affirmed the uprising will continue one wave after another despite the obstacles and difficulties placed on its road until the Israeli occupation is removed and the Palestinian flag is raised in Jerusalem.

After the press conference, 'Arafat held a closed meeting with the popular Palestinian leaders and briefed them on recent developments.

'Arafat's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Statements Cited

JN1108080588 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] London—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that no one officially told the PLO about the recent Jordanian measures and that the PLO did not officially receive anything about this from any Arab party. On the great responsibility the PLO will bear as a result of dismantling ties between the two banks, 'Arafat said in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published in London Tuesday: We have borne our responsibilities with courage and manhood. We have never evaded our responsibilities. We have always borne our responsibilities and now we are bearing our responsibilities in the occupied territories in the face of the Israeli onslaught.

Answering a question on whether the PLO has an institution or an administration with financial and administrative qualifications to look after the employees that used to receive their salaries from the Jordanian Government, 'Arafat said: The structure of the PLO can absorb everything as long as the resources are available. He said he assures the kinfolk in the occupied territories that the PLO will bear its responsibilities because he hopes that during his next tour of the Arab countries he will be able to implement the obligations agreed upon at the Arab summit conference in Algiers, where it was decided that $128 million would be paid immediately to the PLO for urgent obligations and $43 million would be paid monthly. He said he hoped he would be able to reach a quick understanding with his Arab brothers on these obligations.

On Jordan's role in peace efforts as a partner, 'Arafat said: Yes, Jordan will be a partner in the negotiations, as are Lebanon and Egypt. The same thing applies to Syria. The important thing is that the surrounding countries in addition to the Palestinian people, represented by the PLO, participate.

On whether the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation has vanished, 'Arafat said: The idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was deleted from the dictionary of the PLO although Jordan was repeating it. He added: We were talking about a joint Arab delegation. We are ready to accept the idea of a joint delegation with Egypt, but not with Jordan.

'Arafat was asked about the Arab countries' assessment of the Jordanian measures and about whether these countries contacted him after the announcement of these measures. He said: We must read statement No 23 by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising. The Palestinian people in the occupied territories consider that one of their achievements is confining Palestinian representation to the PLO and that the Palestinan people own the decisionmaking.

'Arafat was told that from time to time the issue of passports is raised, for the Palestinians feared the Jordanian Government would withdraw passports from the West Bank inhabitants after the dismantling of ties. He was asked what would the PLO do if such a measure is taken. 'Arafat said: This is really one of the problems, but I would like to say that the Palestinians in Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, Egypt, and other countries have passport problems. Therefore, let all the Palestinians have the same problem.

'Arafat was asked whether the PLO has thought of a practical formula to solve this problem. He answered: Yes, there was a plan to solve this problem. This plan is in the Arab League. It has been approved by Arab interior ministers. The plan provides for the issuance of a Palestinian passport guaranteed by the Arab League. The plan was delayed until enough guarantees by the

Arab countries to deal seriously with this passport are received. I think the Jordanian measures will be a reason for speeding up thinking about this and taking major steps in this regard.

On whether there was an idea of a government-in-exile, 'Arafat said: Yes, this is one of the things we should always think of. It is supposed to be discussed by the PNC during its coming meetings.

'Arafat stressed that the uprising of the Palestinian people is continuing and will continue. He pointed out that the uprising has brought closer the convening of an international peace conference and it was behind the adoption by the United Nations of Resolutions No 605 and 608 and behind the recent international initiatives. He said as long as the uprising continues, the United States will keep moving, because the continuation of the uprising means the continuation of Israel's political and historical crises.

When 'Arafat was asked about the U.S. Administration's denial that it ever contacted him, he said he has an official letter from Henry Kissinger, former U.S. secretary of state, thanking the PLO for its release of thousands of Americans who were in Beirut in 1976.

In this important statement, 'Arafat also talked about his stands toward Syria, Lebanon, and the Iraq-Iran war.

PLO's Al-Yahya on Palestinian State, Jordan Ties

JN1008083488 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Aug 88 pp 21, 24

[By Layla Dib]

[Text] Amman—Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO representative in Jordan, has said the Palestinian delegation, which is due to arrive in Amman tomorrow, Thursday, will discuss with Jordanian officials the consequences of the recent Jordanian step to disengage the legal and administrative relationship with the occupied West Bank.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Al-Yahya said the brotherly talks between the two sides will be constructive and will be based on the spirit of confidence between Jordan and the PLO in the interest of the Palestine question.

Asked about the passports carried by West Bank residents, Al-Yahya said: We do not distinguish between a Jordanian and a Palestinian citizen. It is only a phase on the path of liberating the land and the kinfolk. The various ties between the two fraternal peoples affirm the goal is one and the interests are similar. Successive PNC resolutions were based on this concept.

Al-Yahya also stressed the need to project the Palestinian identity, as it is very important on the militant level. He also said future Jordanian- Palestinian relations are greater than one can imagine and too great to be doubted by any person.

Asked by AL-DUSTUR about enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement that the idea of establishing a Palestinian state is a mad idea, Al-Yahya said: In fact, it is madness for Shamir to think the Palestinian people will remain under the Israeli occupation forever. The occupation has been trying to destroy the Palestinian identity by using all means of repression and terrorism. But through determination and struggle, the Palestinian people affirmed their adherence to the land and their readiness to sacrifice to liberate the Palestinian homeland.

Regarding the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and a government-in-exile, Al-Yahya said the PLO has several options to achieve the Palestinian people's independence and regain their national rights and that any option will lead to this conclusion. Therefore, the PLO has been adhering to the need to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Regarding his expectations the PLO may fill the vacuum caused by the disengagement of relations between Jordan and the occupied territories, Al-Yahya said: In the PLO Central Council's statement, the PLO officially announced it would shoulder full responsibility toward the Palestinian people, the Palestinian land, and the Palestinian struggle in all areas and under all circumstances. It is well known that the uprising has managed to crystallize a sort of Palestinian authority on the Palestinian land.

Regarding the PNC extraordinary session called for last week, Al-Yahya said the session will be held within 3 to 4 weeks to discuss the uprising and any other developments following the recent Jordanian measures.

PLO Delegation To Arrive in Amman 12 Aug

JN1008131588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] A delegation from the PLO will arrive in Amman the day after tomorrow, Friday, to hold talks with officials here. The talks are expected to concentrate on the developments that followed Jordan's declaration of disengagement of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, in response to the PLO's desire. Last Sunday the Jordanian monarch King Husayn asserted he has nothing to say to the PLO. But he added Jordan will listen to what the Palestinian delegation has to say. He reiterated that Jordan's doors are open.

On the other hand, PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim, who will participate with the Palestinian delegation in the talks, stated to our radio that

Jordan and the PLO have no option but to reach a common formula to deal with the new situation, which resulted from the latest Jordanian measures, to support the inhabitants of the occupied territories. Milhim also said the [Palestinian] political and legal committee will meet in Tunis after the conlcusion of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks in Amman to draft a formula to deal with the new situation in the Palestininan arena following the latest Jordanian measures.

Milhim added that the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile, or the declaration of a Palestinian state, will be the central issue in this committee's discussions. The committee will prepare recommendations on this subject to be submitted to the [PLO] Executive Committee, which will present them for discussion in the extraordinary session of the PNC.

In addition to Muhammad Milhim, the delegation will include Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin; 'Abdallah al-Hurani; 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya; and Hani al-Hasan.

PLO Begins Contacts on Forming Palestinian State

JN1008084788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Aug (WAKH)—The PLO delegation at the United Nations began consultations and contacts with heads of member state delegations on the possibility of their states' official recognition of the Palestinian state should the PNC decide to declare its establishment during its extraordinary session at the end of this month.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published today, quoted a Palestinian official in the PLO delegation as saying that most of the Arab and Islamic states, in addition to some European and African states, have informed the PLO leadership they will officially recognize the Palestinian state if its establishment were decided.

The Palestinian official pointed out that the seven-member Arab committee will hold contacts with the capitals of the five big powers within the next few days with the aim of implementing the partition resolution which was issued in 1947 on the establishment of Palestinian and Israeli states.

USSR Reportedly Agrees to Government-in-Exile

JN1108103488 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources in Damascus have said that Moscow informed Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat of its support for the imminent declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile as a way out of disagreement over Palestinian representation in an international peace conference.

In today's issue, AL-ITTIHAD cited these sources as saying that during his expected Arab tour, King Husayn of Jordan will support the inclination to establish such a government and help the PLO shoulder its responsibilities in the occupied territories. The sources also said Arab moves to assert the Jordanian decision to dismantle ties with the West Bank will be made.

PFLP's Habash Appeals to Palestinian Masses

NC0908191088 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1338 GMT 9 Aug 88

['Appeal' by PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash to "the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories"; date not given—recorded]

[Text] O masses of our great Palestinian people; masses of the glorious uprising; our heroes in the Palestinian Bank and the dear sector; sons of our valiant, steadfast, and patient people in Nazareth, Haifa, Jaffa, Ramlah, Lydd, Acre, Umm al-Fahm, and Bi'r al-Sab'; and our hero people in every city, town, village, and camp; O valiant revolutionaries, the generation of liberation and victory:

For the 9th successive month you continue to write pages of glory day after day and month after month with a steel will which knows no fallback or retreat despite all pains, sacrifices, torture, and sufferings. You are writing the history of your people with blood. You are struggling and martyrs are falling with your heads high in the sky and declaring to the whole world: Our uprising will continue. It is either victory or martyrdom. There is nothing more dear than freedom and independence.

O our heroic masses: Your valiant uprising is entering its 9th month, with your heads high and full of feats and sacrifices, which have not ceased for a moment. A greeting of pride, esteem, and dignity to every infant, child, youth, woman, and aged person. A greeting to everyone who contributes to this glorious historical feat which opens the horizons of a new Palestinian and Arab era. A greeting to the students, workers, peasants and merchants. A greeting to every village, camp, and city. A greeting to you who are the makers of glory and builders of the independent Palestinian state.

O masses of our great people: Despite all the sacrifices, hundreds of martyrs, thousands of injured and detainees; despite all the international support for our just and legitimate struggle; and despite the clear condemnation of Israel's fascist and Nazi practices—despite all this, our usurper Zionist enemy continues to answer us with more violence, killing, destruction, displacement, deportation, and detention. Our enemy continues to answer us with one sentence: We will not make any concessions to you under the uprising. It justifies this stand on the basis that any concessions will mean breaking and smashing its false prestige.

From a position of national responsibility and after the enormous, sacrifices and the pure blood which has spilled for 8 months, we are faced with the big question: What position to take and what to do? After prolonged thinking and a deep sense of responsibility for the sacrifices of our masses, our answer in the PFLP is summed up in one sentence: No retreat, pause, or capitulation. We will fight the slogan of the usurper enemy of no concessions. Let our slogan be no retreat, pause, or capitulation. History and the struggle of the victorious peoples have taught us with their perceptible experience that freedom has a price and that it is taken and not given.

Are we prepared to pay the price? You have given your clear and resounding answer: Yes to freedom, yes to independence, and yes to the continuation of the struggle and its escalation day after day, month after month, and year after year until the life of slavery, humiliation, and usurpation ends forever. Proceed forward, o masses of our heroic people. More escalation on the path of a comprehensive national disobedience. More concentration on and intensification of the war of incendiary bombs and the war of knives.

Let the operations which aim to destroy and devastate the resources of the occupation be escalated. Let the pressure of the masses continue to strike the props of the treacherous occupation authority represented in the organs of the civilian administration, appointed municipal schools, and police. Let the props of the popular authority and popular committees be entrenched everywhere. These are the agricultural, medical, supply, and security committees, particularly the steadfast committees and the popular resistance committees to which we extend our warmest greetings. O masses of the heroic uprising, your national unity is the protective and impregnable fence of your valiant uprising. It is the rock upon which all forms of plots have foundered and will founder. Let there be more unity and cohesion to confront all types of challenges. Since the start of your glorious uprising, we have been observing a wrongful and harmful Palestinian policy aimed at the speedy political exploitation of the uprising. The authors of this policy wrongly believe they can quickly exploit the uprising politically.

A recent example of this is the so-called ill-reputed Abu Sharif document which causes harm to the Palestinian national unity and undermines the Palestinian national constants and the National Council's resolutions. It frankly expresses a readiness to hold direct negotiations with the enemy and to recognize the legitimacy of the Zionist presence on the land of Palestine.

Does this desperate and deviationist political logic constitute a political tactic bringing us closer to our goals, as some deluded and narrowminded people believe? In light of their bitter and rich experience, gained over scores of years, for which they paid dearly in blood and sacrifices, our people very clearly realize the true nature of the Zionist enemy whom we are confronting. They also know this enemy's fascist, racist, and expansionist nature. This enemy will not leave our land except through the introduction of a change in the balance of power which would make it realize its occupation plan will result in human and material losses.

The policy to quickly exploit the uprising and make free concessions to the enemy will not bring us closer to our goals; rather, it will result in increased Zionist obduracy and in a demand by the enemy for more concessions. It is high time for our masses to know the devastating results of this desperate policy. It will only lead to the division of the Palestinian ranks and to the creation of a crack in the wall of the Palestinian national unity. This is the most important result which the Zionist, imperialist, and reactionary enemy cherishes.

We are waging a long, difficult, and complicated battle. Your blessed uprising came to emphasize the start of a new qualitative stage in the Palestinian national struggle in particular and the Arab liberation struggle in general. It is a stage which will put an end to the illusions still within the heads of some on the possibility of attaining quick political gains in return for making concessions to the usurper Zionist enemy. It is a stage which requires the continuous mobilization of all the resources of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation's people in a long and complicated battle to liberate the homeland and defeat Zionism.

The continuation of the uprising, its escalation, and direction toward its goals of freedom and independence depend on the firm adherence to the Palestinian national constants which were approved by the national councils. Foremost of these constants is the right to return, to determine the fate of, and to establish the Palestinian independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Valiant sons of the uprising, your glorious uprising is entering its 9th month after having achieved a tangible victory and great accomplishment represented in the final dropping of the so-called Jordanian option. As a result of the uprising's continuation and escalation, the Jordanian regime has been compelled to announce the cancellation of the development plan in the occupied territory, dissolve the House of Representatives, and disengage the administrative and legal relationship with the occupied Palestinian Bank. How do we interpret the Jordanian regime's decisions and, consequently, what are the PLO's duties and responsibilities toward the challenges which these decisions raised?

These decisions were imposed by the uprising and the developments it caused inside the occupied territory. These developments swept away the influence of the Jordanian regime and brilliantly proved the full rallying of our people around the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of our people and leader of their national struggle for freedom and independence. The glorious uprising has practically aborted the so-called Jordanian

option. The Jordanian regime has fully realized this fact, which prompted it to bow before the storm. However, we must realize the Jordanian regime will not easily and simply abandon the role and office for which it was historically established. Its role is to pursue the policy of annexation and of obliteration of the Palestinian national identity of the Palestinian people.

The Jordanian regime, which primarily seeks to protect itself and its Kingdom, is making a last attempt to establish its role by trying to create difficulties and obstacles, exert pressure and blackmail, and throw wrenches in the path of the uprising and the PLO, believing and thinking the PLO will not be able to face the challenge and carry out its duties and responsibilities toward our people in the occupied Palestinian bank as a result of its economic, administrative, and legal decisions and measures. Consequently, the regime is laying its bets on the failure of the PLO and on the PLO being compelled to return to it from a position of weakness to (?cooperate) and coordinate with it.

Jordan's decisions do not constitute a final abandonment of the Palestinian Bank and a final withdrawal in the PLO's interests. They are indeed an attempt at blackmail and pressure to strengthen the Jordanian regime's cards which were weakened by the uprising. Our masses in the occupied homeland are capable of accepting the challenge despite all attempts to create obstacles and difficulties on the path of their valiant uprising.

The Jordanian regime's actions, which constitue a noticeable victory for the uprising, place on the PLO enormous political and practical responsibilities which must be fully carried out.

O masses of the glorious uprising and masses of the PLO, 8 months after your blessed uprising, and on its entry into the 9th month with a firmer will and stronger and deeper insistence to continue, and now that the uprising and confrontation of the occupation authorities have become a pattern of conduct and daily life, it becomes one of our most important duties to seriously consider escalating the uprising and elevating it higher on the path of the comprehensive national disobedience. This will not be the end of the road, but a higher step along the path of the realization of our goals.

O masses of our steadfast and struggling people in the areas occupied since 1948, the Zionist enemy realizes the importance of your role and knows well that you constitute the strategic revolutionary reserve which will disturb its sleep and shake its foundations. Let there be more action, sacrifices, and activities to prove to the whole world that our people everywhere in the Palestinian Bank, Gaza Strip, the areas occupied since 1948, and diaspora are fighting, struggling, and standing as one man to regain all their inalienable national rights, foremost their right to return, to determine their fate, and to establish the Palestinian independent state over the soil of our homeland. The uprising calls you for more cohesion and for consolidating the unity of your ranks.

O masses of our great people, one of our most important duties abroad is to secure political protection for the uprising, adhere to Palestinian national constants, and block the road to everyone who seeks to impose the spirit of political defeatism and capitulation and attempts a quick exploitation of your glorious uprising. It also is high time to say very loudly it is essential to carry out a comprehensive and deep democratic organizational reform within PLO institutions compatible with the greatness and loftiness of your uprising and its enormous sacrifices. Let the next Palestinian National Council be the right opportunity for improving the PLO's conditions and carrying out the deep democratic reforms in its institutions to deal with the gaps and diseases which we have suffered for more than 20 years and which we are now suffering during the uprising.

O our heroic masses, your glorious historic uprising places great responsibilities and duties on the shoulders of our people in the diaspora and abroad. Therefore, we invite the masses of our people everywhere to make the blessed uprising the focus of their daily activities until our goals of freedom and independence are achieved.

O masses of our Arab nation, while entering its 9th month the escalating Palestinian uprising looks upon you and expects from you a pause for deliberation and soul-searching guaranteeing you will carry out your duty at this glorious historic moment of the joint Palestinian-Arab struggle against the Zionist and imperialist onslaught on the Arab nation. The national regimes and Arab liberation movements, particularly in the confrontation countries, are called upon to prepare the programs guaranteeing that all types of aid will be provided to the heroes of the stones who are fighting the occupation with an inflexible will.

Eight months have passed since the beginning of our people's glorious and heroic uprising. Does this not require the Arab masses, their progressive forces, their patriotic and revolutionary political parties, and in particular their patriotic regimes to draw up programs that would translate into fact the slogans pertaining to the pan-Arab character of the battle and the support of the uprising? It is time to extend tangible support to the masses of the uprising.

The uprising has crystallized numerous great and profound revolutionary connotations and meanings and demonstrated the great extent of our people's patriotic and revolutionary potential and their unlimited willingness to give and sacrifice whatever they possess. It is time to address the enemy in the only language it understands. It is time to open the Arab fronts, at least to the Palestinian rifle to fight the enemy.

As it enters its 9th month, the uprising is calling upon you, appealing to you, and urging you to support and assist it by all methods and in all forms.

On an internationalist level, supporting and assisting the uprising has come to represent a defense of man's liberty and dignity in this age.

We appeal to all free men in the world to support our people's uprising in all forms and by all methods. It is our right to request our internationalist friends and allies to extend to us further support, aid, and backing by all methods and in all forms.

Masses of the heroic uprising, as the uprising enters its 9th month, let us turn it into the beginning of a new Palestinian era. Let us also turn the Palestinian land into a fire burning beneath the invaders' feet.

To the stonethrowing children, a greeting of pride and reverence. A greeting to our wounded and prisoners. A greeting to the mothers, wives, and fathers of the martyrs. Glory to the martyrs. Victory to the revolution. Forward with our foreheads raised, raised, raised. Forward.

PLO Radio on Assumption of 'All the Burdens'
JN0908221988 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1636 GMT 9 Aug 88

["Talk of the Uprising":"We Shall Proceed on the Road to Victory Thanks to the Momentum of National Achievements and the Broad Militant Vistas"]

[Text] To the masses of our heroic people throughout the flaming homeland, to our giant generations and our revolutionary youth, to the heroes of our strike forces and the vanguards of the popular army, and to the heroes of the relief committees, the popular committees, and national institutions: We shall proceed on the road to victory thanks to the momentum of national achievements, the broad militant vistas, the firmness of our national unity, the deeply-entrenched bases of the pillars of our national authority, and the ever-increasing intrepidity of the vanguards of our popular army which confronts the enemy with stones, clubs, and popular weapons and daily excels in its confrontation of the enemy.

While we are at the onset of the 9th month of our blessed and heroic uprising, our only option, the option of victory, sweeps away all the dams and obstacles and rushes forward with all force and vigor. We have achieved much. We are dutybound to accumulate further achievements. The victory we seek is as great as our just cause and as sacred as our objectives. We only seek to complete our independence and establish our independent state, the independent state of Palestine. This means the old map will no longer exist and that a new map will be drawn up in this area of the world, a map that will rescue Palestine from oblivion and will mention Palestine as a people, a state, a homeland, a heritage, and a civilization.

It goes without saying that the enemies of Palestinian independence, the enemies of Palestinian reality, and the enemies of Palestinian victory will not remain silent for one moment and will not remain inactive until our march sweeps them away and until the banners of our great victory flutter over our independent state. Our enemies have mobilized all their forces, their alliances, and all the means of exhaustion and pressure, not to mention their attempts to cripple us by making us assume all the burdens. However, this is our fate and we accept it. We thank God He granted us the strength that enables us to assume our burdens and to carry out all the requirements needed for our inevitable victory.

Those who offered blood profusely, managed the conflict with such ingenuity, and escaped the traps of death with such dexterity will find it easy to confront all the conspiracies of the conspirators. Our achievements are great and the most prominent of these achievements is that our Palestinian political constants and postulates are now gaining ascendancy in all local, Arab, and international arenas. The PLO is the sole and legitimate representative. It is the leader of the struggle. It is also the gateway to the solution to those who seek a just solution and the gateway to peace to those who seek a just peace. It is also the party that decides on the Palestinian people's affairs for those who seek a real party which abides by what it believes and rejects what is not in line with the Palestinian people's interests.

The world at large now is convinced the PLO is the only key after the world and its influential forces have realized that the others who used to exploit the Palestinian cause can neither benefit nor harm it. Perhaps this is the reason for the demented and rancorous stand the traitors of the Syrian regime have adopted. When the PLO bypassed them and withdrew all the Palestinian cards they had usurped, they realized their role was secondary and without any value. All those who find themselves on the margin of the Palestinian cause will inevitably act in this rancorous and demented manner.

In light of the soundness of the Palestinian political constants which are supported by the strength of the uprising and the excellence of its performance, we find the Zionist enemy is scared and confused, not knowing what to do and unable to clearly define its political programs, election campaigns, and its economic plans. The Zionist leaders, political blocs, settlers groups, parties, and their other aggressive institutions act now as if the deluge is imminent.

The Palestinian deluge is coming without their being able to prepare themselves for such a momentous eventuality. That's why we see them as they are now, taking one step forward and another backward. They talk about peace while perpetrating crimes. They admit the reality while evading it at the same time. However, time is not on their side and the Palestinian deluge is coming. The deluge is not waiting for those who hesitate, who are confused, and who are scared.

We have scored many achievements. The most prominent of these is the unity of our people in and outside our homeland, not to mention the unity of our legitimate frameworks and institutions, as well as the unity of efforts which the uprising has channeled toward one course and one destination: national independence. Through this national unity and through this national consensus the Palestinian entity advances to win more battles and successful wagers. Greetings to our people, to our future generations, and to our uprising. God will grant us victory soon.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Officials Continue To Arrive for SAARC Meeting

India's Narasimha Rao

BK1008161188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The meeting of the foreign ministers of the SAARC countries begins in Kathmandu tomorrow. King Birendra of Nepal, the current chairman of the SAARC, will inaugurate the 2-day meeting.

The minister of external affairs, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, on his arrival this evening, told newsmen at the airport that the SAARC structure has proved useful and this meeting will try to consolidate its benefits for all.

The Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, said that his country will oppose Afghanistan's entry into the SAARC.

Our correspondent, Sushil Chopra, reports that the question of admission of new members and other related issues are to be discussed at the foreign ministers meeting.

Bangladesh's Humayun Chowdhury

BK1008155988 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury arrived in Kathmandu this afternoon to attend the SAARC foreign ministers' meeting. The 2-day meeting begins in the Nepalese capital tomorrow. The Bangladesh foreign minister was received at Tribhuvan International Airport by Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya.

Meanwhile, the SAARC Standing Committee composed of the foreign secretaries of the seven member-countries has already prepared the groundwork for the ministerial-level meeting. It will be inaugurated by King Birendra.

Pakistan's Yaqub Khan

BK1008153588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has arrived in Kathmandu where he will lead the Pakistani delegation at the SAARC ministerial council meeting beginning in the Nepalese capital tomorrow.

The SAARC Standing Committee, which held its meeting in Kathmandu, has expressed satisfaction at the pace of work undertaken during the year to promote the activities of the organization. Pakistan has promised to give 15 million rupees and to set up scholarships worth 500,000 rupees.

Bangladesh, Nepal Support Pakistani Position

BK1108041088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told newsmen in Kathmandu yesterday that Pakistan will oppose Afghanistan's inclusion into SAARC. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN says that Bangladesh and Nepal also support Pakistan on this issue. They believe Afghanistan is not a nonaligned country and is still controlled by foreign troops. Therefore, it cannot be included in SAARC.

The meeting, apart from setting the date for the SAARC summit, will also discuss food supply and security issues and steps to deal with terrorism.

Algeria

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Algiers for Talks

LD1008153188 Algiers APS in Arabic 1458 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Algiers, 10 Aug (APS)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Algiers today on a visit during which he will hold talks with Algerian officials on the development of the Palestinian issue, and the uprising of the Palestinian people.

In the airport VIP lounge Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to the press in which he said: In the course of the development of current events on the Palestinian scene, whether the escalation of the our people's uprising or the recent security measures announced by King Husayn and the Arab moves, or the development of the situation in the Gulf, it is only natural that I should meet the Algerian brothers to discuss what concerns the Palestinian problem proceeding from the pioneering role of President Chadli Bendjedid in the Palestinian issue.

Benjedid Congratulates Iranian, Iraqi Presidents

LD1008224788 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has sent messages of congratulations to the Iraqi and Iranian presidents and to the UN secretary general in which he expresses his deep satisfaction at the announcement of the acceptance of the cease-fire by Iraq and Iran.

The head of state welcomes the wise, courageous, and clear-sighted decision taken by the two republics and expresses his wishes for peace, security, and stability for the region, assuring Mr Perez de Cuellar on the happy outcome of his praiseworthy task—the establishment of the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq. The president of the Republic considers it a first step of considerable significance for these two fraternal countries and for the Gulf region, where stability was in jeopardy.

I know, the president of the Republic adds in his message to the UN secretary general, that the way to final peace which your efforts have just opened remains difficult, but it is also my conviction that you will be able to smooth away the obstacles with your faith and commitment wherever the ideals of concord and harmony between peoples and states are at stake.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid: U.S.-Palestinian Talks 'Postponed'

NC1008144488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Aug (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated the primary importance of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination at this stage, more than at any other time, in order to prepare for the coming stage. He disclosed that a Palestinian delegation will visit Jordan soon for talks with the Jordanian Government on recent developments and on the Jordan's decisions regarding the West Bank. The Egyptian foreign minister expressed Egypt's hope that these talks will benefit the Palestinian issue because it believes that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination has priority in that respect.

In an exclusive statement to the MENA correspondent in Riyadh, where Dr 'Abd al-Majid arrived early today while en route to Muscat, the Egyptian official said that while calling for Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, Egypt also stresses the importance of coordination with the other Arab parties concerned, which have an interest in this. He said: We in Egypt are working to bring the Arab world together. There might be differences of view, but these must be overcome because the coming stage will be a critical and sensitive one which will require more consultations and coordination among the Arab parties.

Regarding the issue of holding an American-Palestinian meeting during the current Middle East tour of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, Dr 'Abd al-Majid revealed that this issue has been postponed for the time being in view of the absence of agreement on some Palestinian personalities and the agreement on others, despite the efforts that have been exerted to convene such a meeting during Murphy's current tour of the region. Murphy is now in Cairo. Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted here that Egypt has made efforts for the convocation of such a meeting because of the desire on the part of the United States to hold a meeting with Palestinian officials.

In his statements, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister strongly condemned Israeli practices and recent aggressions on Lebanon. He also condemned Israel's measures in the occupied territories. Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: We hope that these will not affect the presidential elections in Lebanon. We also hope that the brothers in Lebanon will agree and unite.

In his statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid welcomed the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, which has been set for 20 August. He expressed Egypt's hope that this will mark the start of a new era among the countries and peoples of the region and will lead to stability throughout the Middle East. He said: The trend in the region now is toward peace. Egypt is happy with this. He added that the establishment of peace might take some time, but it is still much better because the effects of peace in the Gulf will spread throughout the area.

Regarding the Egyptians being held prisoner in Iran, Dr 'Abd al-Majid disclosed that Egypt is continuing its contacts through a number of international circles and the Red Cross to solve this problem. He added that it has not yet received a satisfactory reply from Iran. The Egyptian foreign minister stressed that Egypt will continue its efforts

to reach a solution to the problem of Egyptian prisoners in Iran, particularly in wake of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and the acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598, an article of which calls for the exchange of prisoners, including the Egyptians.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid welcomed the forthcoming visit of Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Egypt. He stressed that this visit will embody the strong relations between the two Arab leaders, King Fahd and President Mubarak, and between the fraternal Egyptian and Saudi peoples. He added: The two peoples are close. Everytime I visit Saudi Arabia and meet with the Saudi brothers, I feel as if I am in my country. This undoubtedly is their feeling when they are in Egypt.

Regarding the Tabah issue, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the endeavors being undertaken to resolve this issue will not at all affect the international arbitration procedures. We expect the decision, which will be issued in September, to be in Egypt's favor. He noted that the decision will be binding because states that accept arbitration are committed in advance to implement the ruling.

'Abd al-Majid Leaves for Oman 10 Aug

NC1008071488 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Oman this morning on a 2-day visit. Dr 'Abd al-Majid will deliver a message on Arab and bilateral relations to Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id from President Husni Mubarak.

Al-Baz Discusses Meeting With Murphy

NC1009210888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Following the conclusion of his talks with Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, tonight, Dr 'Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, disclosed they had reviewed the results of the U.S. envoy's discussions with the parties concerned in the region during the past few days. He added that Egypt assessed the situation in the Middle East in light of recent developments, particularly the trend toward a conclusion of the Iran-Iraq war, and in light of the need to prevent the creation of a vacuum in the peace process vis-a-vis the Palestinian question.

Dr al-Baz further said that Egypt explained the role which the United States must play in order to contribute to the realization of positive, tangible results on the following issues:

1. The need to reach an agreement as soon as possible on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war, without concentrating on the cease-fire alone, so that a real peace may be achieved which would prevent the conflict from erupting in the region once again.

2. The need to continue action to ensure the continuation of the Middle East peace process in an effort to convene an international peace conference next spring. This requires the adoption by the United States of stands on questions which are still in dispute, including the way in which a conference should be prepared, the legal basis for its convocation, and the representation of Palestinians in it.

3. The role which the United States must carry out to contribute to the stability of conditions in Lebanon on the basis of Egyptian stands which attach great importance to eliminating all foreign pressures that are being exerted on the people of Lebanon, providing it with an opportunity to elect a new president, and reaching an agreement on the functioning of its constitutional institutions during the next stage without interference by any force.

Murphy Departs Cairo 11 Aug

NC1108064788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, left Cairo this morning following a 3-day visit during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

While in Cairo, Murphy held talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. Talks during these meetings centered on the situation in the Middle East and on bilateral relations. Murphy arrived here 2 days ago as part of his current tour of the region.

Ghali Terms Mubarak-Murphy Talks 'Positive'

NC1008141988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Today President Husni Mubarak received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has described President Mubarak's talks with Murphy as very positive. He added that Egyptian diplomacy supports the continued U.S. efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. Egypt also will continue its contacts with all parties concerned, including the PLO, to give an impetus to the peace process. Dr Ghali stressed the importance of achieving Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in order to advance the cause of peace efforts in this region.

Ghali Hails Troop Withdrawal From Angola

NC1108112588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt welcomes South Africa's announcement that it will begin the withdrawal of its troops from Angola. He said this constitutes a practical step toward achieving stability in Angola and paves the way for declaring Namibia's independence, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 435.

Dr Ghali said the Egyptian Government follows up and supports efforts being made by the UN secretary general to implement the resolution on Namibia's independence.

Tabah Delegation Head Interviewed on Talks

NC1008141088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, head of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department and of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks, has reiterated that there will be no bargaining over or relinquishment of Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah. He added that there will be no authority other than Egypt's in its territories.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, Ambassador Mahir expressed confidence that the international arbitration's ruling on Tabah will be in Egypt's favor. He said: Egypt entered the arbitration arena strong and confident. It has emerged from the arbitration procedures ever more confident, more satisfied, and stronger. Hence, we are looking to the ruling with complete confidence and composure.

In the interview, to be published by the Egyptian magazine on Friday [12 August], the Egyptian official referred to efforts being exerted with regard to the Tabah issue outside the arbitration framework. He said: We are willing to discuss some arrangements or facilities provided they are in line with Egyptian law. Ambassador Mahir stressed that not a single person will enter Egyptian borders without a passport. He added that Israel has no choice but to accept the arbitration ruling on Tabah because any prevarication or refusal on its part will create a major and grave crisis in Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Asked whether Israel has accepted the Egyptian offer to purchase the hotel built in Tabah, Ambassador Ahmad Mahir told AL-MUSAWWAR: The peace treaty between the two countries and the appended documents stipulate that Egypt has the right to purchase the tourist installations which Israel leaves behind in the Egyptian territories from which it evacuates. He added: The issue is closed because such a precedent exists with regard to Sharm al-Shaykh and Nuwaybi'. In both cases, Egypt bought the hotels there when Israel evacuated. He stressed that this subject already is agreed upon and does not require any new agreements.

As for reports of Israel's attempt to comanage with Egypt the tourist installations in Tabah, the Egyptian official said: This could be one of Israel's dreams which, like its other dreams, cannot become reality.

Ambassador Mahir emphasized that Egyptian sovereignty is complete and that we will not accept sharing our sovereignty with anyone. We also will not accept partition. He added: The Egyptian stand on this is clear and we are adhering to it. The management of a hotel or the way persons enter or exit from Egypt are at the core of this country's jurisdiction. Egypt alone decides on this according to its interests, laws, and Constitution. The Egyptian official stressed that this issue will not be the subject of pressure or impositions by anyone because Egypt is completely free in making its decisions.

In replying to a question in connection with reports that Israel is looking forward to joint projects with Egypt in Tabah, Ambassador Ahmad Mahir said: This has nothing to do with what we are talking about at present. The present issue concerns the return of Egypt's full sovereignty over Tabah, without exceptions or fragmentation or conditions. Anything else is outside the scope of our talks and is part of Egyptian policy and the laws enacted by Egypt to encourage tourism and investment. He stressed that no privileges will be given to any party. Egypt has laws and measures which it is applying and which it will continue to apply.

As for the security arrangements in Tabah following the international arbitration decision, Ambassador Ahmad Mahir said: When the Tabah area returns to Egypt, it will be unconditionally under Egyptian sovereignty and will be part of sector "C." There are some arrangements with regard to weapons in this sector, but nothing that will infringe on Egyptian sovereignty.

Asked how crimes will be dealt with in Tabah following its return to Egypt, he said: Crimes committed on Egyptian soil are subject to the jurisdiction of the Egyptian police and judiciary, which no one can dispute. He added: We do not differentiate between one nationality and another. Anyone who commits a crime on Egyptian soil is subject to Egyptian law.

Regarding the U.S. role in the Tabah talks, Ambassador Ahmad Mahir told the magazine: The United States is the friend of the two parties. As is usual with friends, it is attempting to reconcile the parties so that there will be no disputes. He added: The United States is, as a friend, convinced of our position, as evinced by all the papers which the U.S. delegation has presented. All of these papers stem from a clear, frank, and definite conviction that sovereignty over the Tabah area belongs to Egypt. This is why it was trying to get the Israeli party to accept this conviction.

Concluding his interview, Ambassador Ahmad Mahir stressed that Egypt refuses to let the Tabah problem become an issue of party competition or electioneering in Israel.

Asked whether the possibility exists that Israel might refuse to implement the arbitration decision on Tabah, which will be issued at the end of September, Ambassador Mahir ruled out such a step by Israel. He warned that this would create a major and grave crisis in Egyptian-Israeli relations. It also would affect Israel's image before the world, which already has been tarnished because of its policies and practices in the West Bank, Gaza, and Lebanon.

Ambassador Mahir emphasized that the arbitration process is taking its normal course and that no force can stop it. He said: We are determined in this. We have rejected all proposals to postpone the arbitration and the ruling will be issued on time, God willing.

Tabah Arbitration Panel's Deliberations Noted

NC0808113288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent delegate to the UN European Headquarters in Geneva, has stated that the decision on the Tabah issue is pending a ruling by the International Arbitration Panel. He noted that the court president occasionally gets in touch with both Egyptian and Israeli sides to inquire about certain points concerning the case, and that the court is currently holding deliberations limited to only five judges.

The final round of these deliberations, he said, will begin on 29 August, with the court's ruling being announced next month. Al-'Arabi stressed that the ultimate goal is to attain Egypt's right to Tabah and restore the borders to their pre-1967 status, whether through arbitration or by any other means, such as the ongoing negotiations in which the United States is taking part. Al-'Arabi asserted that Egypt does not accept any bargaining over its territory.

Iraq's Ramadan on Relations, Syrian 'Betrayal'

NC1108071388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, has affirmed that Egyptian-Iraqi relations are a good model for relations of fraternity and solidarity among Arab brothers.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AKHBAR published today, Ramadan said there is continuous and excellent coordination between Egypt and Iraq at all levels, particularly between Presidents Mubarak and Husayn. He noted in this respect the Egyptian position in support of Iraq during the war, emphasizing that this support will continue to the same degree during the political battle for peace.

Ramadan stressed that Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, calling for an end to the Gulf war, came as an acknowledgement of reality, arising from Iraq's victories and fear among Tehran's rulers of the total collapse which loomed. The Iraqi official added that his country did not reject Iran's acceptance of the UN Security Council resolution because Iraq desires peace. However, he added, we laid down some bases and called for direct talks with Iran under the auspices of the UN secretary general. He pointed out that should Iran reject direct talks, it would mean it does not want peace, and it will have to bear the consequences.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister condemned Syria's position on the Gulf war, accusing it of betraying all the objectives and aspirations of the Arab homeland. He noted that Syria was the one who helped Iran against Iraq, attempted to tear Lebanon apart, and tried continuously to slaughter the Palestinian people in the camps. He called for a more frank and clear Arab stand toward Syria's treacherous position against the Arabs so that the Syrians will see that their position is incongruous and rejected.

Sudan's Al-Mirghani Holds News Conference

NC1008112088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] in Sudan, has praised Egypt's immediate response to Sudan's appeals regarding the torrential rain and flood disaster. He said that it was the first country to send urgent relief aid to face the situation there, which proves the true friendship and the strong ties linking the two brotherly countries. [passage omitted]

At a news conference he held in Al-'Urubah Palace yesterday before his departure, Al-Mirghani commended the talks he held with President Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials on ways to bolster cooperation between the two brotherly countries and on recent developments on both the Arab and African levels.

Al-Mirghani described his visit as successful, adding that he had full cooperation during his stay. He expressed his wish to work for further understanding and coordination in order to consolidate the efforts of the people of the Nile Valley to create a better future and realize their aspirations for wider cooperation in various fields.

The Sudanese official expressed the hope of removing all restrictions on freedom of movement between the two parts of the valley. This, he said, would guarantee freedom of passage and employment for the citizens of both countries and thus serve development efforts in both states.

Al-Mirghani touched on the DUP's role in facing the current emergency in Sudan. He said the party had called on all capable Sudanese to cooperate with their brothers

and contribute their resources to face the catastrophe. He asserted that the national reconciliation government in Sudan will continue, noting that the current disaster calls for consolidated efforts to save Sudan.

Al-Mirghani commended President Mubarak's mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia, which helped to put relations between the two countries on the right path in an atmosphere of confidence. He pointed out that the Sudanese-Ethiopian joint committee will meet in Addis Ababa in the next few days.

Responding to a question on Jordan's recent decision, Al-Mirghani said it was the right decision, adding that he hopes King Husayn, the Jordanian Government, and the PLO will continue their cooperation to put that decision into effect without leaving negative effects on the citizens in the West Bank.

Al-Mirghani concluded by expressing the hope that all countries, particularly the Arab states, will respond to Sudan's appeal for assistance to face the flood disaster. He pointed out that his accompanying delegation of DUP Political Bureau members will remain in Cairo to follow up matters.

Meets Mubarak

LD1008203088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1742 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum Aug 10, (SUNA)—Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Sayid Muhammad Usman al-Mirghani who is currently on a visit to Cairo met last Monday with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and discussed with him floods and rains crisis which hit the country last week, the daily newspaper AL-ITTIHAD mouth-piece of the D.U.P. reported today.

The paper said that Sayid al-Mirghani had hailed the efforts exerted by Egypt to transport relief supplies for the affected people through an airlift linking between Cairo and Khartoum.

During the seven day visit which is due to end today the leader of the DUP discussed with officials in the ruling Democratic National Party means of exchanging experiences between the two parties the paper said adding that Sayid al-Mirghani had invited members of Democratic National Party Secretariat to attend the DUP congress scheduled for next November.

Leaves for Home

NC0810055588 Cairo MENA in English 0545 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, August 10 (MENA)—'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), left here today at the end of a ten-day visit.

While here Al-Mirghani met with President Husni Mubarak and a number of senior officials.

Saudi Ambassador on Fahd Visit, Other Issues

NC1008151488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—Saudi Ambassador to Cairo As'ad Abu al-Nasr has lauded Egyptian-Saudi relations, describing them as fraternal, intimate, profound, and sincere.

At a news conference he held today, the Saudi ambassador announced that Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz will visit Egypt very soon, declaring that King Fahd will discuss with President Husni Mubarak all the issues of interest to the two countries.

The Saudi ambassador said that his country hopes Egypt will be invited to attend the regular Arab summit due to be held in Riyadh, in view of Egypt's well-known influence on the Arab scene. He affirmed that Saudi Arabia will be happy if that happens because it always calls for uniting Arab ranks.

Concerning the prospects for Saudi Arabia's return to the Arab Industrialization Organization, the Saudi ambassador said that communications to this effect among the member countries of this organization are continuing.

Answering a question on whether Saudi Arabia is making efforts to improve relations between Egypt and Libya, or to help restore diplomatic relations between Egypt and Algeria, As'ad Abu al-Nasr declared that Saudi Arabia plays the role of the brother who seeks to unite ranks and eliminate minor differences among the Arab brothers. He announced that it also is seeking to resolve the disagreements between the PLO and Syria.

On the cease-fire decision between Iraq and Iran, the Saudi ambassador said that this decision has been the wish of all Muslims, particularly Saudi Arabia, as it is a good development for all Arab and Islamic countries.

Commenting on the recent Jordanian decision to sever legal and administrative links between Jordan and the occupied West Bank, the Saudi ambassador remarked that his country constantly supports the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He pointed out that his country will continue its efforts in this respect in accordance with what the PLO decides.

As'ad Abu al-Nasr affirmed that if the PLO should decide to proclaim a government-in-exile, Saudi Arabia will support this move. He explained that Saudi Arabia will support the PLO in any decision it adopts with regard to the West Bank in wake of the recent Jordanian decision.

The Saudi ambassador said that his country does not spare any effort to seize every opportunity to assist the uprising and the Palestinian people. He noted that Saudi

Arabia always works in silence without any publicity. He added that it will not be slow in helping the Palestinians, particularly with regard to rebuilding the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Culture Minister Arrives on Visit

NC0908131488 Cairo MENA in English 1250 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, Aug 9 (MENA)—Tunisian Minister of Culture Habib Boulares arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a several days visit.

He said he was carrying a message to President Husni Mubarak from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The Tunisian minister will meet with his Egyptian counterpart Faruq Husni to discuss means of promoting cultural relations between Egypt and Tunisia.

Boulares was Tunisian ambassador in Cairo before his appointment as minister of culture.

Investigations Into Jihad Members Detailed

NC1009162588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Aug (MENA)—The State Security Prosecutor's Office continued its investigations today into the case of the members of the Jihad organization who were sought after escaping from Tura Prison.

The investigations showed that the security forces had arrested defendant Fathi Ahmad Mustafa, who admitted he had links with the inmates who had escaped before they were tracked down 5 days later. The investigations also revealed that on 8 August, a telephone call was made at 1500, and recorded with the knowledge of the Prosecutor's Office, between Fathi Mustafa and Tariq al-Aswani, brother of inmate Muhammad al-Aswani, who escaped. The two agreed to meet behind the Coptic Hospital at 1700 to hand over money.

The prosecution's investigations revealed that the security forces laid several ambushes around the hospital. They monitored the arrival of Tariq and Muhammad al-Awani and observed that Fathi Ahmad Mustafa was waiting for them. The security men then saw Muhammad al-Aswani put his hand in his pocket where he was hiding a pistol. Police Captain Tariq Ibrahim and some security men attacked the three men, and Muhammad al-Aswani fired three shots. One of the bullets struck Officer Tariq Ibrahim and then ricocheted, hitting and wounding Muhammad al-Aswani.

After inspecting apartment building No 16 on Muhammad Tawfiq Street in Hada'iq al-Ma'adi, where escaped prisoner Khamis Musallam, who was killed, formerly resided, the state security prosecution discovered that the building was used as a workshop for carpentry work and for storing electrical instruments and equipment.

Scattered clothes, a blue suitcase, 30 bullets, a locally made pistol, bags of firecrackers, a bomb shell, and sticks, suspected to be explosives, were found in the building. A wallet containing three family identification cards, two personal identification cards, and a drivers license, whose owner's name had been struck out, were seized from the apartment building.

Two holes were found in the door of the apartment. They were caused by bullets fired from inside the apartment. A number of empty shells also were found.

The prosecution has handed over the body of Khamis Musallam to his family after the family identified it. The prosecution gave the family permission to bury the body.

Source Denies IMF Imposition of Decisions

JN0808164488 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 6 Aug 88 p 1

[By Mahmud Salim]

[Text] A responsible economic source said that Egypt is the party that sets the rules of dealing with international monetary organizations, the foremost of which are the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD] and the IMF.

The source said: Egypt deals with these organizations out of concern for national economic interests. Any decision made is a purely Egyptian decision, and there is no interference in its economic issues.

The economic source denied what has been repeated lately: that the IMF is imposing impossible conditions on Egypt's economic measures. He said that the IMF and IBRD are showing their point of view and that Egypt is the one that decides, taking into consideration Egypt's interests first and foremost. He added that President Mubarak is greatly concerned about the social implications of any economic decision he makes that will affect low-income persons.

The source denied what has been repeated: that the IMF asked Egypt to stop assigning graduates through the government. He added that the assignment of graduates should be carried out according to the government's wishes, the needs of public sector companies and departments, and the specializations in demand.

Cairo Reportedly 'Studying' U.S. Debts Proposals

JN0808173888 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
7 Aug 88 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] Egypt is currently studying U.S. proposals to settle military debts owed to the United States before President Reagan's term expires. The proposals call for a 7.5-14 percent reduction of interest on debts and settlement of the reduced sum in 20 years. According to political sources, the U.S. proposals have been before the political leadership for some time. President Reagan, the sources add, has been seeking a cutback in U.S. military debt interest owed by such friendly nations as Egypt, the ROK, and the Philippines. Egypt is abiding by its commitment to fully settle the debts on schedule with the help of certain Gulf states.

Overall, Egypt owes the United States $5,640 million, of which $1,090 million is a nonrefundable grant. Repayment of the military debt should be completed in 26 years. The high interest rate on the military debt, ranging between 10.8 and 13.7 percent, has raised the servicing charges to $10 billion and $683 million over and above the principal. Egypt was said by the sources to have turned down a $1.5 billion loan offer at 7-percent interest from two U.S. banks—Solomon Brothers and Trust Bankers—guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury. The sources said Egypt is awaiting Israel's response to similar U.S. suggestions to cut interest on military debts or waive part of the debts.

Arab Summit on Jordan-PLO Ties Urged

JN0608203888 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
4 Aug 88 p 5

[Editorial: "A Quick and Decisive Arab Move Is Required"]

[Text] Many Arab and world circles expect an Israeli move in the near future to counter the new situation that emerged following Jordanian King Husayn's decision to sever administrative and economic ties between Jordan and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in confirmation of the PLO's role as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

The direct reactions revealed how much confusion and perplexity the sudden Jordanian decision caused among the ruling circles in Israel. The Israeli Knesset called for an extraordinary session to discuss these developments.

What is required now is a quick Arab move that backs the aims of the Jordanian decision and takes quick steps to support the PLO, which is in charge of struggle for the restoration of Palestinian rights and liberation of the occupied territories.

The new situation requires holding an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss all aspects of the Palestinian position and to decide the method of coordination between the Jordanian authorities and the Palestinians in the light of the current stage after Amman has emphasized that its decision does not at all mean relinquishment of its support for the Palestinian uprising and its respect of the PLO's independent role.

It has been noted from the U.S. reactions that Washington is still supporting Israel's disregard of the PLO, something about which the Arab nation must say a decisive word, so that all will know that all the Arab states recognize the PLO as a legitimate spokesman. There should be a joint and intensive Arab diplomatic effort to explain the Arab stand in a clear and unequivocal manner.

Congress, Administration's Bias to Israel Seen

NC1008054588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2123 GMT
9 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—The Cairo AL-AKHBAR newspaper expresses hope that some free voices will be raised inside the U.S. Congress to demand a detailed statement of the severe losses which the United States has sustained as a result of its biased policy towards Israel at a time when the U.S. budget deficit is increasing to an unprecedented level.

In an editorial appearing in Wednesday's edition, the paper refers to an article published in THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR which denounces the policy adopted by some U.S. Congressmen who place Israeli interests above U.S. interests.

AL-AKHBAR notes that the article spelled things out clearly for the first time when it accused the U.S. Administration of submitting to the wishes of Israel's supporters inside Congress regarding the Arab arms requests, a matter which makes the administration an agent of Israel, an agent that seeks to please Israel even at the expense of the American people's interests.

AL-AKHBAR cites well-known examples that demonstrate the U.S. stand which is biased toward Israel, such as the Saudi arms deal, the Kuwaiti arms deal, and the pressure which the United States is currently exerting on the Arab State of Qatar to make it relinquish the missiles it obtained from China.

34 Missing in Nile Sinking of Tourist Ship

NC1008213488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT
10 Aug 88

[Text] Aswan, 10 Aug (MENA)—The tourist ship "Nubia" sank today in the Nile River near the city of Idfu in Aswan Governorate. The ship was carrying 50 Italian tourists and a crew of 50 Egyptians.

Thirty-four Italian tourists and 27 Egyptian crew members of the ship, which belongs to the Manorma Tourist Company, have been rescued. The ship sank after it encountered strong winds in the area of Shaykh Mahmud near Idfu this afternoon.

Major General Qadri 'Utman, assistant interior minister and director of Aswan security, and members of the security organs in the governorate, immediately went to the scene of the incident. Maj Gen 'Uthman ordered the governor of Aswan to move the 34 tourists who were rescued to a tourist hotel in Luxor.

A river rescue team comprising Egyptian soldiers arrived at Aswan airport tonight and went to the scene of the incident to search for those still missing.

The governor of Aswan has ordered coffins to be prepared for the foreign victims and for ambulances to transfer the bodies to the Italian Embassy in Cairo.

Maj Gen Ibrahim al-Baysuni, Aswan security director, has stated that 17 Italian tourists and 17 Egyptian crew members are still missing. He added that the Italian ambassador in Cairo has arrived at the scene of the incident to ascertain the circumstances of the incident and to facilitate the transfer of the bodies which might be recovered.

Al-Baysuni pointed out that Interior Minister Zaki Badr has ordered that all facilities be provided for those who have been rescued and all measures be taken to permit the transfer of the bodies.

Nine Bodies Recovered

NC1108075388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0728 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Aswan, 11 Aug (MENA)—The bodies of nine victims of the tourist ship "Nubia," which sank last night near the Al-Shaykh Mahmud area in Idfu, were retrieved today. Strong winds over Aswan yesterday evening caused the ship to capsize, with 50 Italian tourists and 45 Egyptian crewmen aboard. The nine bodies include those of five Italian tourists and four crewmen.

Major General Ibrahim al-Basyuni, director of security in Aswan, has stated that the rescue teams began their work early this morning to retrieve the remaining bodies. He added that the Idfu prosecutor's office will arrange the necessary procedures for delivering the bodies of the Egyptian victims to their relatives. The bodies of the foreign tourists, he added, will be transferred to the Aswan morgue, and then will be flown directly to Italy. [passage omitted]

Briefs

U.S. Warships Cross Canal

Cairo, Aug 7 (MENA)—Seven American warships crossed today the Suez Canal on their way from the Gulf after they ended their mission there. The vessels are an aircraft carrier, five destroyers and a frigate. The ships passed in the north bound convoy and they were later followed by two Italian destroyers which were also coming from the Gulf. Meanwhile, a south bound convoy included today two Soviet monitoring ships of the Soviet Navy, heading for the Gulf. [Text] [*NC0708172888 Cairo MENA in English 1724 GMT 7 Aug 88*]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers To Pay West Bank Salaries

JN1008183588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1709 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Antoine Abu Samrah on 9 August—recorded]

[Text] [Abu Samrah] Your Excellency the Colonel, Radio Monte Carlo is pleased to host you today within its main newscast. We thank you for choosing our radio to speak about this important phase in the history of the Arab world. Events in the Arab region are moving fast both in the Gulf and in the arena of the Arab-Israeli struggle. The uprising in the occupied Arab territory enters its 9th month and King Husayn announces the severance of ties with the West Bank. Everybody is in a state of apprehension. It is well known that the Libyan Jamahiriyah plays important roles in most developments. It adopts very clear positions on all issues.

Today, if you please, we will begin with the uprising. How do you evaluate the situation and what are the aims of the uprising and what are your own aims?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Thank you. I am grateful to Radio Monte Carlo for giving me this opportunity. The uprising is a popular revolution in occupied Palestine. It has two aims regardless of whether those who are leading this revolution and waging its battles realize them or not. This does not matter. It has a political aim; namely, explaining to the world and drawing its attention to the fact that there is a territory that has been occupied for decades; that there are Palestinian people under this occupation; and that these people did not gain their independence after World War II like the other states and peoples which had been under the British mandate. The second aim is the liberation of Palestine from the Zionist occupation.

As for the first aim, the uprising has conveyed to the whole world the voice of the Palestinian people, who reject the Zionist occupation, and drew world attention to the fact that there are people who demand their

independence which they did not get after World War II. The Palestinian people should have won their independence immediately after the end of the British mandate over Palestine in 1948.

As for the liberation, this is a strategic aim but is very difficult to realize in the foreseeable future. This requires a long struggle with Zionism until it is defeated and until Palestine is liberated from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea.

I think the uprising successfully realized the first aim and is laying the foundation for realizing the second aim; namely, liberation.

[Abu Samrah] But what is required now of the Arab states and of you in particular after King Husayn's decision to sever administrative and legal ties with the West Bank? How can you assist the uprising and help the employees who have been dismissed from their jobs by the Amman decision?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] As for the employees whose salaries are estimated at $1 million per month, the Libyan Jamahiriyah declares through your radio—and I thank you for giving me this opportunity to tell this good news to our brothers who have been expelled from their jobs and who are oppressed—that the Jamahiriyah will pay the salaries of these employees which are estimated at $1 million per month.

As for the Arab states, it has been decided to support the uprising in the amount of $100 million during the Algiers Arab summit. We will work to ensure transferring this amount continually and without a stop. The Arab nation is asked to pool all of its resources without any limitations to support the uprising with funds, with arms, and with moral and political backing.

I ask the Arab states to define their positions and policies toward foreign countries in light of the latter's position on the Palestinian people.

As for King Husayn's moves, it is well known King Husayn has never offered anything to Jerusalem, Palestine, or the West Bank, which was under his rule until 1967.

[Abu Samrah] You said you are ready to pay the wages of employees who were sacked by Amman. Can we determine the time period in which the Jamahiriyah will shoulder this responsibility?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] From the day the salaries paid by Jordan were terminated. We will provide for this.

[Abu Samrah] Do you think King Husayn's decision is in the interest of the PLO in the long term? What is your opinion regarding reports about the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Firstly, I do support the establishment of a Palestinian government, the transformation of all Palestinian resistance forces into a Palestinian liberation army, the transformation of all the PLO offices in the world into Palestinian embassies, and the continuation of struggle under the leadership of a revolutionary, provisional Palestinian government and a Palestinian liberation army, which will gain legitimacy before the world. Then, we will have a government, an army, a Palestinian people, and an occupied land—Palestine.

[Abu Samrah] Regarding the objectives achieved by the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, do you think that they are enough on their own to reach a solution to the Palestine question?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] As a revolutionary, I think this is the right beginning and the correct and only path. That is the Palestinian struggle from inside Palestine. This will bring nearer the day of the end of Zionist occupation. The Palestinian people have reached this, naturally, after the Arab governments have failed to offer anything serious to liberate Palestine. Also, the world has failed to offer anything to a people who lost their independence and land in 1948.

Therefore they have no path but this one. This is the only fruitful path. No matter how long it may be, and no matter how big and hard its cost is. This is the correct path. Liberation must be from the river to the sea, and from the south to the south. [sentence as heard]

They should raise the slogans of conferences and committees everywhere to establish the popular fighting Palestinian authority that will manage and run Palestinian affairs in the occupied territory.

[Abu Samrah] Your Excellency the Colonel, before we finish this talk I must ask a question about an important event that took place recently. That is the cease-fire in the Gulf war.

In short, what is your reply to the cease-fire and the near end of the Gulf war?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We are glad because the end was a response to our repeated attempts. The two sides have fought a mad and pointless war. We are pleased because the two sides have responded to the repeated appeals and calls to end this war. On this ocassion, I say all guns must be directed against the Zionist enemy and imperialism in the Islamic areas, in Iraq and Iran. That is really all that I have to say.

[Abu Samrah] Thank you. Thank you Your Excellency the Colonel.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Thank you; I am very grateful.

[Abu Samrah] We are very grateful.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Goodbye.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iraqi President's Envoy

LD1008151288 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Benghazi, August 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn.

During this meeting, Mr. Shakir handed the leader of the revolution a letter from the Iraqi president pointing out the stand of Iraq regarding its insistence on conducting direct talks in a bid to put an end to this war once and for all, apart fronm achieving permanent peace in the region.

Mr. Shakir arrived earlier yesterday afternoon at Benina International Airport.

Commenting to JANA, he said that he came to Al-Jamahiriyah conveying a letter from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the Iraqi-Iranian war and on the developments that have taken place regarding the process of peace.

He added that this visit came out of a keen desire on the part of Iraq to keep its brotherly Arabs informed with all that related to Iraq particularly and the question of the Iraqi-Iranian war generally.

USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation Stops Over

LD1008161388 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [Aug]—10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY— Mr. Astrauskas, vice-chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. , and his accompanying delegation arrived at Tripoli Airport on his way from Lagos to his country. He visited the house of the leader of the revolution witnessing the effects of the abortive and barbarous U.S.-NATO aggression.

Writing in the guest-book, Mr. Astrauskas has denounced this aggression reiterating the solidarity of his Soviet people with the Libyan Arab people in its brave stand against the imperialist hostile plots.

Before he and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli yesterday, he commented to JANA saying he was extremely touched by the effects of this barbarous aggression. He lauded the heroic challenge displayed by the Libyan Arab people in facing the hostile conspiracies of the enemies.

He has announced that his country is keen on furthering the solidarity with the Libyan Arab people and promoting the existing relations of cooperation between the two countries.

Cypriot Socialist Delegation Ends Visit

LD1008163588 Tripoli JANA in English 1446 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [Aug] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Cypriot delegation currently on a visit to Great al-Jamahiriyah headed by the sec. gen. of the Cyprus Socialist Party has lauded the historic action done by the leader of the revolution in demolishing the prison and releasing the prisoners, apart from his struggle for securing human rights which has culminated in promulgating the great green paper for human rights in the era of the masses as a basis for strengthening and consolidating these rights.

These comments were made in the press statement released today on the conclusion of the Cypriot delegation's visit.

This statement has been signed by the secretary of the people's municipality and Mr. Takis Habjidimitriou the sec. gen. of the Cyprus Socialist Party [United Democratic Union of the Center].

In the statement the two sides have expressed their anxiety over the foreign presence in the Mediterranean Sea, so much so that it poses a threat to all the peoples bordering on this region. They have called for keeping this sea free from foreign fleets and bases.

Fraternal Bureau in Qatar To Reopen

LD1108133688 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] JANA has learned that the Great Jamahiriyah is to reopen the Libyan Arab Fraternal Bureau in Qatar. This follows the path of bolstering fraternal ties between the sons of one Arab people.

Mauritania

Libyan Envoy Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD1108015088 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Excerpt] This evening at the Presidential Palace Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state, received Muhammad al-Zuwayy, personal envoy of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. The Libyan envoy delivered a letter on issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

Ghana's Rawling Departs After 3-Day Visit

LD1108024688 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] and president of the Republic of Ghana, left Nouakchott this

afternoon after a 3-day visit to our country. The Ghanaian president was seen off at the airport by Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee of National Savlation [CMSN], and members of the national delegation. [passage omitted]

At the airport's VIP lounge the Ghanaian president, made a statement to the national press in which he said: I am very satisfied with this visit which has enabled me to hold talks with my brother and friend Col Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, on the state of relations between the two countries.

The Ghanaian president said that the visit will inevitably make it possible to bolster cooperation between Ghana and Mauritania, particularly in the economic field. [passage omitted]

This afternoon Col Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, and Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings signed the final communique following Flt Lt Rawlings' official 3- day visit to our country. Here is a full translation of the comunique:

In response to an invitation by Col Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Flt Lt Jerry John Rawlings, PNDC chairman and head of state of Ghana, paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania 8-10 August 1988. The visit was in the framework of the fraternal relations between the Mauritanian and Ghanaian Governments and peoples.

Flt Lt Jerry John Rawlings has expressed to his brother Col Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya his admiration for the efforts made by the national leadership since 12 December 1984 to realize the happiness and prosperity of the Mauritanian people. Col Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya congratulated Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings on the great progress Ghana has made under his wise leadership. [passage omitted]

During the visit, the two presidents held many rounds of talks which dealt with bolstering bilateral cooperation. They also discussed Islamic, Arab, and international issues. The two presidents agreed to intensify bilateral consultations at the highest level in an effort to coordinate policies and consolidate cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, and cultural fields. The two presidents expressed their satisfaction at the measures adopted to expand bilateral cooperation.

The Ghanaian side expressed its desire to obtain permission for Ghanaian fishing concerns to operate off Mauritanian shores in order to give further impetus to cooperation. The two presidents expressed their encouragement of official and private cooperation in mining, agriculture, and commerce. They focused on economic cooperation among African countries and assessing the economic conditions on the continent with a view to demanding the establishment of a fairer world economic order. In this context they stressed their commitment to support and diversify bilateral cooperation. For the realization of this objective they decided to set up a joint cooperation commission to convene its first session in Accra in the first half of 1989.

The two presidents denounced attempts made by some industrialized countries to make African countries a depot for their toxic wastes, and they urged African countries to firmly adhere to the implementation of the OAU and ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] resolutions on this issue.

On reviewing African problems, the two presidents reaffirmed their determination to continue efforts aimed at destroying the racist regime in South Africa and Namibia and the realization of self-determination for the African majority in that region. In this context the two president condemned the inhuman policy pursued by the racist regime of Pretoria and affirmed the commitment to offer support and aid to liberation movements in southern Africa.

The two presidents condemned the apartheid regime's attempts to destabilize the African Frontline States, and expressed their support for the Frontline States' constructive role in favor of African peoples' struggle to obtain the right to self-determination and the maintenance of human dignity. In this context, the two presidents congratulated the Nonaligned Movement for setting up a fund of solidarity with the African Frontline States. They praised the countries which have contributed to the fund. They also urged peace, freedom, and justice-loving countries to contribute to the fund.

Concerning Namibia, the two presidents expressed their support for the Namibian people's struggle under SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], the sole and legitimate representative of that people. They recorded their satisfaction with the negotiations aimed at the liberation of Namibia and the withdrawal of South African forces from Angola. They expressed their hope that these negotiations will lead to a settlement of this dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions of 1978.

The two presidents expressed concern over the continuing tension in Western Sahara and reaffirmed their conviction of the need to make concerted efforts to solve the conflict by peaceful means.

The two presidents expressed their concern over the crisis-ridden economic situation in Africa and the negative repercussions of the world economic crisis. In this regard they pointed out the burden of foreign debts on African countries, the collapse of exchange rates, the falling price of raw materials, the rise in interest rates, and the transfer of developing countries' resources to industrialized countries. In this context, the two presidents warned against the dire consequences of this situation, particularly for social and political stability in

African countries. The two presidents urged donor countries and organizations to respond to the appeal made by the OAU heads of state for convening a special conference on debts.

The two presidents expressed their satisfaction with the results of the 21st, 22d and 23d African summits and the UN General Assembly session on the critical economic situation in Africa. They reaffirmed their commitment to efforts to implement the economic reassessment plan in Africa. They urged the international community to provide material support for the plan to succeed, pointing out the need for African countries to rely on their own capabilities to solve their economic problems. They reaffirmed their support for the United Nations and OAU in their capacity as instruments for maintaining world peace. [passage omitted]

Briefs

French Financial Aid

France has granted a 14.6 million CFA franc loan to Mauritania. This financial aid, which is part of France's assistance to Mauritania's economic development, relates to the rural water supply network, education, agriculture, and transport. [Summary] [*AB1108101988 Paris AFP in French 2142 GMT 8 Aug 88*]

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Iraq's Ramadan 10 Aug

LD1008165488 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rashid this morning at the Royal Palace in Skhirat received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraqi first deputy prime minister.

Later his majesty the king and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rashid presided over a working session with Taha Yasin Ramadan. The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Nuri al-Wayyis and Iraqi Charge d'Affaires in Rabat Mohayed Arab.

On the Moroccan side, the meeting was attended by Minister of State Alaoui Ahmed Alaoui, Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri, His Majesty's Adviser Ahmed Reda Guedira, and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Moulay Ahmed Charkaoui.

Ramadan Conveys Message

JN1008175588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Rabat, 10 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, this afternoon met with King Hassan II of Morocco.

During the meeting, the personal envoy conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to King Hassan II. He also conveyed his excellency's greetings as well as the pride of the Iraqi leadership and people in the developed relations with fraternal Morocco. He also affirmed Iraq's interest in bolstering and expanding these relations.

Taha Yasin Ramadan acquainted King Hassan II with Iraq's peaceful stands and its consent to international resolutions, including Resolution 598 since its issuance. He also acquainted King Hassan II with President Saddam Husayn's initiative of agreeing to a cease-fire and embarking on direct negotiations.

Taha Yasin Ramdan reviewed with the Moroccan king Iraq's victories which opened the gates of peace after inflicting bitter defeats on the aggressive Iranian forces.

The personal envoy affirmed the importance of collective Arab action to establish a durable and comprehensive peace. He praised the responsible and noble Arab stands which contributed toward reaching the threshold of peace. He also praised the seven-member committee's role in this regard.

King Hassan II asked Taha Yasin Ramadan to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn. He affirmed Morocco's congratulations on Iraq's great victories which have made peace.

King Hassan II praised Iraq's peaceful stands and President Saddam Husayn's initiative of agreeing to a cease-fire and embarking on direct negotiations. He affirmed that this initiative stems from a position of strength and victory. He said this initiative confirms Iraq's seriousness in providing a sound and correct atmosphere for the establishment of a just and durable peace.

King Hassan II affirmed Morocco's support for holding direct negotiations, given that this is the sound and clear method to establish a comprehensive and durable peace on detailed and comprehensive bases.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy arrived in Rabat from Tunis earlier today during a tour of a number of Arab Maghreb countries.

King Receives Libyan Envoy, Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD1008123388 Rabat MAP in English 1201 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Skhirat-Morocco-Aug-10-(MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco Tuesday morning received Libyan envoy Muhammad Abu Qasim al-Zuwwi at the Royal Palace of Skhirat, 20 km south of Rabat.

The Libyan envoy conveyed to the Moroccan monarch a message from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of Libya.

Diplomatic Relations Established With St Vincent

LD1008214588 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The Kingdom of Morocco and the State of St Vincent and the Grenadines have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, beginning today. In this respect a joint communique was issued which mentions, in particular the following:

The Governments of the Moroccan Kingdom and St Vincent and the Grenadines have decided to revive and develop the ties of friendship and cooperation which bring together their two countries and peoples. These relations are founded on the basis of equality and mutual respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Sudan

Further Reportage on Flood Damage, Food Shortages

Current Situation Described

NC1008125888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Aug (MENA)—The Sudanese State Council has expressed its thanks and deep appreciation to the Egyptian people and government for the assistance extended to the Sudanese people in counteracting the effects of the disaster resulting from torrential rains in the past few days.

Egyptian Charge d'Affaires Sayyid Hubaysh met today with members of the Sudanese State Council, who conveyed their appreciation to him.

In another development, Major General al-Fatih 'Abdun, mayor of the Sudanese capital, has asserted that the torrential rains have caused such inundations that local resources are incapable of contending with the results.

In a statement today, Maj Gen 'Abdun said that the capital still faces danger following rainfall levels not seen since since the 1946 floods. The flood is expected to peak in the last week of this month. Therefore, the public will have to cooperate with the authorities over the next 3 weeks to confront the perils of the flooding, he said.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese newspaper AL-'USBU today reports that 22,500 families were affected by the floods in Kassala, the capital of eastern Sudan, and that hundreds were given temporary shelter in schools.

(Al-Mirghaniyah) and other areas in the north were hit by flood waters from the 'Atbarah River. Fifteen villages were cut off, and 20,000 families were stranded in eight other villages in the north and face prospects of hunger and disease.

In Khartoum, bread shortages became less acute when a number of bakeries were able to reopen after electricity returned to several parts of the city. However, the continued scarcity of bread and other foods still keeps Sudanese citizens lined up in front of food stores.

It is not known how much flour is in stock in Sudan, where many flour mills are surrounded by flood water. A source at the Commerce Ministry has been cited as saying that ample quantities of flour are stockpiled in northern Khartoum, but that the difficulty lies in distributing it to bakeries.

International aid continues to be flown in to Sudan. Three Egyptian planes arrived today in Khartoum, bringing to 20 the number of airborne relief consignments Egypt has so far delivered. Italy and Britain also flew in relief assistance, and Italy's assistance alone is valued at $10 million. The YAR has also promised to send 10 planes with relief assistance to Sudan.

The Sudanese foreign minister said that an Arab League delegation is expected to arrive in Khartoum today to inspect the disaster and arrange help for the victims.

He added that the Arab League has called emergency meetings of the Arab health and social affairs ministers. The two meetings will be held successively on the 15th and 16th of August at the Arab League Headquarters in Tunis to discuss the social and health implications of the flood disaster in Sudan.

Meanwhile, the waters of the Nile rose even higher yesterday. Water stored behind the Sannar Dam increased to 579 million cubic meters yesterday, up from 565 million cubic meters the day before. In Khartoum yesterday, the level of the Nile increased from 15.16 to 15.60 meters. The level of water behind the Al-Qirbah Dam on the 'Atbarah River remained unchanged.

The Sudanese State Council has arranged for a news conference to be held this afternoon to discuss the Sudanese Government's efforts to cope with the flood disaster.

State Council Briefs Envoys

JN1008160088 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Aug (SUNA)—The chairman and members of the State Council yesterday held a meeting with a number of Arab ambassadors accredited to Sudan. An official source in the State Council explained that the meeting dealt in detail with the situation resulting from the floods and streams that swept the capital and other cities. He also said that the ambassadors asserted that their countries are ready to extend assistance to Sudan to help overcome the consequences of the rain-related disasters.

The same source pointed out that the meeting was attended by the foreign minister in addition to the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Morocco, the PDRY, the YAR, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, and Oman.

On the other hand, the same source stated that the chairman and members of the State Council will hold a news conference today in which they will discuss the Council's moves to tackle the consequences of the disaster resulting from rain and floods. They will also declare a general mobilization.

Railways 'Completely Paralyzed'

EA1008181988 Khartoum SUNA in French 1505 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Aug—Mr 'Abd al-Azim al-Tawn, assistant director of railways, has said that the railway lines in northern and eastern Sudan have been completely paralyzed by rains and floods. According to him, several railcars loaded with food and gasoline are now stranded at a station on the Port Sudan-Khartoum line, adding that the floods have cut the line in three places. Travelers from Halfah, Karimah, and Atbarah in northern Sudan are also stranded on the northern line, the official noted, adding that local authorities are unable to transport the passengers or provide them with relief.

Mr 'Abd al-Azim al-Tawn stated: We have alerted the government about the potential dangers threatening the passengers. We have also been informed that most of the northern towns are cut off from the rest of (?the country), [words indistinct] a famine for lack of supplies. Towns along the Nile River, on the other hand, are threatened by floods if the Nile's waters continue to rise following the prevailing pattern.

Parties Appeal for Relief

EA1008184588 Khartoum SUNA in French 1508 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum 10 Aug—The Sudanese parties and political movements have issued urgent appeals to local and international humanitarian organizations to come to the aid of victims of the recent heavy rains and floods that affected the country.

Marshal (Rtd) 'Abd al-Rahman Sawar al-Dahab, chairman of the Council of Secretaries of the Islamic Al-Dawah Islamic Call Organization, appealed to international humanitarian organizations to assist the victims of heavy rains and floods, especially in the Sudanese capital.

UN To Coordinate Aid

EA1008192988 Khartoum SUNA in French 1610 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Aug—The UN office in Khartoum yesterday set up a technical commission for coordination between creditor countries and international humanitarian organizations to give emergency assistance to Sudan, Mr Peter Shawman, UN deputy representative to Sudan, has disclosed.

Mr Shawman indicated that he had met some representatives of creditor countries to examine the needs of victims of Sudan's torrential rains. Mr Shawman added that the UN office in Khartoum will remain on maximum alert until the crisis is contained.

Italian Minister on Relief

JN1008201588 Khartoum SUNA in English 1727 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 10, (SUNA)—Italy has contributed relief supplies worth ten million dollars to the rains and floods-plagued people.

This came during a meeting held here yesterday between Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Abu Salih and Italian State Foreign Minister Dr. Ponalomi Galberto [name as received] who arrived last Monday on a three-day visit to Sudan.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry said, during the meeting the Italian official had expressed his country's sympathy with Sudan in facing the catastrophic crisis which plagued the country this week.

On the other hand, Foreign Minister Dr Abu Salih expressed Sudan's gratitude and appreciation to the Italian Governemnt for its quick relief and sympathy.

The Italian minister inspected aboard a helicopter the rain-hit areas in the national capital

The Italian official also met yesterday with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi with whom he discussed the political situation in the African Horn, the international and regional issues of common concern and Italy's contribution to enable Sudan surpass the current crisis of rain and floods.

Kurdufan Declared Disaster Area

LD1008191288 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 10 (SUNA)—North Kurdufan region "Western Sudan" is also declared "area of disaster" after floods stormed many areas in the region leaving five thousand families homeless and devastating hundreds of houses, schools and government buildings, Kordofan Region Governor A. al-Nur said in a statement to the daily AL-AYYAM published today.

The government, following the heavy rain and floods which swept throughout the country last week had declared Khartoum the national capital, Kassala and Al-Showak [placename as received] in the eastern region along with Ad Damir in the northern region as areas of disasters.

The newly declared area of disaster, North Kurdufan Region had previously witnessed along with all western region unprecedented waves of drought and desertification which forced the government to declare them areas of disaster and urged the world for a quick international aid.

YAR, Saudi, U.S. Aid Noted

JN1008194288 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum Aug 10 (SUNA)—Seven planes loaded with flour, drugs and canned food arrived here Wednesday from Saudi Arabia as a Saudi contribution in relieving the rains and floods afected people in the Sudan

The Libyan Jamahiriyah has dispatched a plane carrying tents, blankets, and canned food and the Arab Republic of Yemen has sent three planes also loaded with similar relief items.

On the other hand, a US military plane carrying relief items is due here tomorrow (Thusday).

The US Ambassador to the Sudan Mr. Norman Anderson said in a press statement here Wednesday that his country will give supplementary aid to the Sudan including one thousand tons of sorghum and 200 tons of different food items besides a sum of 350 thousand US dollars for Sudanese national voluntary organizations.

The US officals also said a US expert will arrive here Thursday to assess aspects of aid the US could present in the other spheres. The US ambassador acquainted today the US secretary of state with the international response for assisting the Sudan to encounter impact of rain falls and torrentials.

Arab League Delegation Arrives

JN1008202688 Khartoum SUNA in English 1810 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum Aug 10 (SUNA)—The Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi who is currently in New York has called for the convening of the executive bureaus of the Arab Health Ministers Council and the Social Welfare Council to urgently review the situation in the Sudan.

In a cable to Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Abu Salih Mr. Klibi said the League would launch an appeal to both Arab and international organizations to assist Sudan overcome the floods catastrophe and help stave off the health and sanitary crisis stemming from the floods.

A delegation from the Arab League Secretariat arrived to Sudan today to assess the situation and review ways of extending help to the Sudan.

The Arab League deputation has had a meeting with Foreign Minister Dr Abu Salih today. The officials have expressed the readiness of the Arab League to back the Sudan in every respect in a bid to overcome the floods effects.

The delegation is headed by the Arab League Assistant Secretary General Mr. Mahid Mustafa al-Hadi.

Committee To Resume Talks With Ethiopia

JN1008160588 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Aug (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Ethiopian technical committee which is headed by Major General Salah Mustafa, chief of military intelligence, yesterday left Khartoum to resume its meetings in Addis Ababa. These meetings recently began in Khartoum.

In press statements, Taj al-Sirr Muhammad Salih, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, recently stated that the committee will meet there [in Addis Ababa] during 12-14 August. He also said the Ethiopian side will draw up the agenda for the committee's meetings. He pointed out the first priority of this committee is to remove causes of hostility, to narrow the gap between the two countries, and to improve their relationship.

Tunisia

Zine El Abidine Receives Iraq's Ramadan 10 Aug

JN1008122588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tunis, 10 Aug (INA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today.

During the meeting, Ramadan conveyed to the Tunisian president a message from his brother President Saddam Husayn. The message includes the Iraqi people and leadership's pride in and appreciation for the developed relations with fraternal Tunisia, and their great pride in fraternal Tunisia's support for Iraq's defense of its sovereignty.

Ramadan briefed the Tunisian president on recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war and on President Saddam Husayn's initiative regarding acceptance of a cease-fire and direct negotiations to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace. Ramadan also reiterated Iraq's serious concern about achieving peace since the beginning of the Iranian aggression against Iraq. He stressed the firm Iraqi stand toward a true, lasting, and comprehensive peace in accordance with Resolution 598 and its operative clauses.

Ramadan added that peace necessitates intensified Arab efforts through coordination and consultation among the Arab leaders with the aim of achieving an honorable, lasting, and comprehensive peace that guarantees the two sides' full legitimate rights and achieves security and stability in the region.

The Tunisian president asked Ramadan to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn, and Tunisia's satisfaction with the developed relations between the two countries and its serious desire to further promote them. He also reiterated congratulations to the Iraqi people and leadership on the great victories, and stressed that these victories constitute the key to peace and stability. He described President Saddam Husayn's initiative as a brave and an important step to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace. He said that this is further proof of Iraq's sincere efforts to achieve peace.

He also stressed his country's support for Iraq's efforts to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace on a clear and detailed basis in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the sequence of its clauses. He also expressed Tunisia's solidarity with Iraq's efforts to unify the Arab stand in a manner that would serve the Arab nation, achieve its objectives, and secure its future.

Tunis Welcomes Cease-Fire Announcement

LD1008205488 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement:

Tunisia has received with utmost satisfaction the UN secretary general's announcement of Iraq and Iran's acceptance of a cease-fire in accordance with the stipulations of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. In our view, this event is of utmost importance because it confirms the will for peace on both sides and a sincere intention to put an end to a longstanding tragedy and a catastrophe that has caused immense human and material losses to two fraternal and neighboring Muslim countries, instability and concern throughout the Gulf region, and negative repercussions on Arab and Islamic issues and on international security and stability.

While praising this decisive step on the road to a peaceful solution, Tunisia expresses in particular its appreciation of Iraq's position of wisdom and moderation and of its response to international efforts and UN resolutions which aim at ending the conflict and establishing peace.

Tunisia also warmly congratulates and expresses its appreciation of the UN secretary general for the successful effort he is making to achieve positive results which confirm the UN role in preserving peace despite obdurate obstacles and difficult circumstances. This success achieved by the United Nations encourages the international community to further aid and support it so that it will be able to fulfil its role in the best possible way, especially now that it has proved its usefulness and effectiveness in resolving regional and international conflicts.

While highly lauding this decision and according it the importance it deserves—given that it is the fruit of several years' continuing efforts and the results of good hard work Tunisia again welcomes this wise decision, which should give Iraq and Iran the opportunity to end the conflict between them, to begin reconstructing for a better future for their two fraternal peoples, and to direct their efforts toward supporting Arab and Islamic issues and consolidating the pillars of peace in the world.

PDRY

Iraqi RCC Envoy Delivers Message to Al-Bid

LD1008161388 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, at his office this morning met Brother Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolution Command Council and secretary of the Progressive Nationalist and National Front in the Republic of Iraq and envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The envoy delivered a message from Brother Saddam Husayn, the president of the Republic of Iraq, on the Iraq-Iran war, Iraq's acceptance of the cease-fire and Iraq's entry into direct negotiations with the Republic of Iran to bring about a permanent and comprehensive peace between the two neighboring countries and peoples.

Brother Hasan 'Ali explained the developments leading up to the announcement by the two sides of a cease-fire and direct negotiations to begin on 25 August. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic at 2030 GMT on 9 August reports that Al-Bid arived in Aden the evening of 9 August on a 1-day visit.]

The brother secretary general expressed the YSP leadership's satisfaction with the Republic of Iraq's acceptance of the cease-fire and its demand for a permanent and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran. He stressed the need for Arab solidarity and the utilization and concentration of energies against the Arab peoples enemies as represented by imperialism, Zionism, and reaction. The brother secretary general entrusted Brother Hasan Ali with his greetings to brother Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Fadl Muhsin 'Abdalluh, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister.

Makes Statement, Departs

LD1008153488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Brother Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolutionary Command Council, secretary of the Progressive Nationalist and National Front in the Republic of Iraq, and envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, left Aden this morning after a 1-day visit to our country.

Brother Hasan 'Ali said in a statement to ANA during his visit that he delivered messages to brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, on the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war and Iraq's acceptance of a cease-fire leading to direct negotiations with the Republic of Iran to achieve a permanent and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran.

He stressed that cooperation between the PDRY and the Republic of Iraq has developed widely in the past in various fields. [passage omitted]

The envoy said he hopes these relations will continue in different fields particularly since the leaders of the two countries sincerely wished to develop them further. [passage omitted]

Committee To Assess Flood Damage in Shabwah

EA1108044088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] At its extraordinary meeting, convened this morning under the chairmanship of Brother Salim Ahmad Dahmash, secretary of the Executive Bureau, the Executive Bureau of the local people's council in Shabwah Governorate stressed the need for quick and urgent measures to restore services such as electricity, water and telephone services to people in the capital, 'Ataq, and the neighboring villages which suffered damage yesterday afternoon because of heavy rains.

At the meeting, a five-member committee was formed to assess the damage resulting from those rains. The meeting told the committee members of the need to work quickly and carefully to assess the damage and present its reports to the next session of the Executive Bureau. Heavy rains affected the town of 'Ataq yesterday afternoon.

ADEN NEWS AGENCY learned from a responsible source in Shabwah Governorate's Department of Agriculture that the area flooded in the downpour amounted to 850 feddans in the town of Al-Sa'id.

Saudi Arabia

King Orders Relief Aid for Sudanese Flood Victims

LD0908215688 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] In the wake of the immense damage that has been inflicted on the people and properties in parts of the fraternal Sudanese Republic by heavy rain and floods, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has ordered the immediate and urgent dispatch of relief aid to fraternal Sudan beginning tomorrow, Wednesday morning. The relief aid is to be carried by Royal Saudi Air Force planes.

The relief aid will consist of 50,000 tents; 20,000 tonnes of rice, milk, sugar, and various foodstuffs; blankets; 20,000 sacks of flour; a large quantity of meats; and large quantities of essential medicines.

This fraternal humanitarian aid stems from the custodian of the two holy mosques' concern to alleviate the suffering of the dear brothers.

Jordan Decision Faces Murphy With 'New Cards'

PM1008085988 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic
4 Aug 88 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "New Cards Before Murphy's Mission"]

[Text] Does U.S. envoy Richard Murphy on his current tour of the Middle East have to broach areas that others before him have broached, only to return empty handed—especially in view of the new changes affecting the Arab arena in general and the Palestinian arena in particular?!

Will he content himself with benefiting from past experiments, thus shrouding himself with further ambiguity and mystery, or will he go beyond that and benefit from a new experiment that has a dominant influence, reactivating events, changing positions, and calling for the right to self-expression?

The first of these changes is that the emotional formula of reactions to the Palestinian uprising, which reflects burning emotions and feelings inside the occupied territories as well as the Arab conscience's pain and grief over the Palestinian cause—the emotional formula we reflect in our ideas and writings—is no longer capable of genuinely reflecting an event that began in a limited area inside the occupied territories with stones thrown by children who wanted to express their rejection of submission. It then expanded, causing an unexpected and horrific explosion that has affected the course of international events, especially between the two superpowers. Thus, the formula expressing our position on the uprising has now been translated from words into action.

Before the uprising, international maneuvers—led by the United States basically because of its special relations with Israel and the veto it can impose in the Security Council whenever it chooses—were a kind of tranquilizer and appeasement, launching promises in inflamed areas. George Shultz' missions were aimed at nothing but sedation. The only firm stand has been not to recognize the PLO's legitimate Palestinian representation or an independent Palestinian state. Under the uprising there has certainly been a sweeping Palestinian desire to express themselves outside the framework of dawdling international mediation.

The Jordanian decision to cut off legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was a courageous response to a request from the Palestinians to express themselves. The uprising was the first symbol of such an expression. The decision reactivated the frozen stands and changed the positions of the parties concerned.

Although Shultz desperately emphasized that the decision does not affect the U.S. commitment not to have contacts with the PLO, the new tour by U.S. envoy Murphy is assuming a new nature: It is forced rather than prompted to reactivate pressures on it; it is not prompted to reactivate events in the zones of influence—and this is the first change in positions which the Jordanian decision has created and the Palestinian uprising has prepared for [sentence as published].

Yet in his statements to CBS television, Shultz himself could not avoid making one desperate and serious admission, namely that in his decision King Husayn reflected the meaning of the uprising regarding self-expression for the Palestinians. U.S. specialists on Middle Eastern affairs were able to put these statements into their direct context. They said that the Jordanian decision could force Israel to deal with the PLO and it will destroy Shultz' peace initiative in the Middle East. They believe that the Jordanian decision has given the PLO a major momentum regarding representation in any peace move—and this is the second change.

After this there remains the most serious effect in Israeli-Palestinian confrontation which the uprising has aimed at achieving: It has eliminated Israeli arrogance. As a result, Israel expresses itself today in a confused way that has drawn observers' attention: Yitzhaq Shamir maintains a hard-line stand whereas Peres criticizes Israeli hesitation about making a sincere move in the peace process. And Rabin calls for serious consideration of the Palestinian option after the Jordanian decision. In fact, Peres unhesitatingly states that the decision tells the Palestinians: "Organize your own affairs henceforth," and this emphasizes the political dilemma "we are in," because as long as Israel has not decided which road to take regarding the peace process, there will be no political initiatives.

All these changes confront Murphy with new cards on his present tour. If he does not consider them carefully, he will find himself following in the footsteps of those who preceded him, in terms of failure and timewasting. This is in the knowledge that it is unlikely that an effective formula for peace in the Middle East will be reached. Nor is it likely that an international conference, attended by the PLO, will be convened, especially at present, in view of the approaching U.S. elections and the fact that Shamir is still at the top of the political pyramid in Israel. Thus, Murphy's move can be viewed as similar to previous moves.

Briefs

Portuguese Envoy Presents Credentials

Jeddah, 9 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received today the credentials of Portugal's new ambassador to the Kingdom, Jose Do Matos Barreira. [Summary] [*LD1008000888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1359 GMT 9 Aug 88*]

Yemen Arab Republic

USSR's Brutents Arrives, Focuses on Relations

JN1008152588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Karen Nersesovich Brutents, CPSU Central Committee candidate member and deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit of several days to our country at the invitation of the General People's Congress.

In a statement to SABA', the Soviet official said that during his visit he wants to be acquainted with the nature of the work of the General People's Congress. He noted that the visit concerns the cooperation between our country and the USSR symbolized by strong bilateral relations. These relations are organized by the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed by both parties.

The Soviet official noted the USSR's appreciation for our country's wise policy under brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. This policy aims to reinforce and bolster economic and social development and promote cordial bilateral relations.

The Soviet official was received by Brother Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee; and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Confers With Al-Asbahi

JN1108070188 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council and secretary of the Standing Committee, today received the Soviet delegation led by Karen Nersesovich Brutents, CPSU Central Committee candidate member and deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, who is on a visit to our country.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr al-Asbahi welcomed the Soviet delegation. He noted that the Soviet delegation's visit to our country is part of continuous meetings and talks between the General People's Congress and the CPSU. He highlighted existing relations of friendship and cooperation between our country and the USSR in all economic, political, and cultural fields. He also highlighted the USSR's contribution to a number of development projects.

Dr al-Asbahi said these relations were deepened in the wake of the visits to the USSR by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Dr al-Asbahi also noted our country's interest in the new trends in the USSR to achieve a complete rebuilding in the service of the Soviet peoples. He underlined the resolutions of the 19th CPSU conference and the wise policy followed by the USSR under Mikhail Gorbachev.

Dr al-Asbahi then briefed the Soviet delegation on the General People's Congress as a democratic option whose program, the national charter, seeks to deepen the principle of popular participation and reinforce national unity. He reviewed the activities and components of the General People's Congress as well as its prominent contribution to achieving national unity through peaceful methods and democratic dialogue as well as its concern for establishing developing relations with political organizations and parties in the fraternal and friendly countries.

Dr al-Asbahi touched on the role played by the General People's Congress in supporting the fateful issues of our Arab nation—foremost of which is the Palestine question. He noted its support, together with all masses of our people, of the mammoth popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories—that is escalating day after day—to regain all legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the liberation of their land and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative—the PLO.

He also expressed our country's happiness for the steps that were taken recently to end the Iraq-Iran war. He asserted the belief of the General People's Congress and all masses of our people in international peace and security, its denunciation of the armament of space, and its support for all efforts to limit the arms race. He explained that our people have followed the U.S.-Soviet summit conference held recently in Moscow. He praised the Soviet Union's efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament and peace.

Dr al-Asbahi also pointed to the General People's Congress interest in the North-South dialogue and its assertion on the preparation of a new international economic system based on justice. In conclusion, he praised the relationship between the General People's Congress and the CPSU.

The head of the Soviet delegation then spoke. He said he hopes the visit will have positive results to bolster the strong ties between the two friendly countries. These relationships were strengthened by a friendship and cooperation treaty in 1984. He pointed out that the visit will allow the delegation to be informed on the regulations and activities of the General People's Congress and its structure.

The visit also comes within the framework of bolstering the relationships between the General People's Congress and the CPSU. He also touched on the organizational

aspects of the CPSU. In conclusion, the head of the Soviet team praised our people and our country's old civilization, whose symbols are still standing now.

In this meeting, the two sides discussed the relationships between the General People's Congress and the CPSU and how to bolster and improve them through visits and meetings. The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad al-'Imad, assistant secretary of the Standing Committee, and a number of Standing Committee members.

Cabinet Statement on Iraq-Iran Cease-Fire

JN1108072088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held its periodic session at 0900 today under the chairmanship of Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member. The council discussed the issues on its agenda, including the internal regulations pertaining to the way transactions and procedures are to be performed and carried out at the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting, the council was acquainted with the latest developments pertaining to efforts to end the regrettable status of the war and establish peace between the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The council voiced deep satisfaction over the two parties' acceptance of the cease-fire and also over their agreement to launch direct negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary general to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for resolving their problems through peaceful means and within the rules enshrined in international laws.

The council paid tribute to the wisdom and eagerness to establish peace, security, and stability in their countries and the entire region—demonstrated by the leaderships of the two neighboring Muslim states, Iran and Iraq. The council reiterated that this important historic event achieves a strategic objective that has long been pursued by the Islamic nation since the outbreak of this regrettable war. The council expressed hope that the upcoming negotiations between the two parties will be corwned with succes and lead to the signing of a durable and comprehensive peace agreement between the two countries.

The Council of Ministers also paid tribute to the endeavors exerted by the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general to reach this important agreement which serves world peace and security, wished the UN secretary general success in his forthcoming mission, and expressed hoped that he will win the support and backing of all UN Security Council member states in general and the UN Security Council's five permanent member states in particular.

Briefs

Outgoing Omani, Algerian Envoys

Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani today received Rashid ibn Nasir al-Mamnaki, Oman's ambassador to Sanaa, at the end of his tour of duty. The prime minister also received Mohamed Sabbagh, Algeria's ambassador to Sanaa, at the end of his tour. [Summary] [*JN0608133888 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Aug 88*]

YAR Envoys Appointed

A presidential decree was issued yesterday apppointing Ahmad Muhammad al-Shibl as the YAR's ambassador extraordinaire and plenipotentiary to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Another presidential decree was issued yesterday apppointing Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz Sallam as the YAR's permanent representative at the United Nations in New York. [Summary] [*JN0708125388 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Aug 88*]

Outgoing Egyptian Ambassador

This morning Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, received Brother Dr 'Umar 'Ali 'Amir, Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa, on ending his tenure in our country. Talks during the meeting dealt with bolstering and promoting relations between the two fraternal countries. [Text] [*JN0708165288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Aug 88*]

Outgoing Algerian Ambassador

Brother 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, Consultative Council speaker and member of the Standing Committee, today received Algerian Ambassador Mohamed Sabbagh at the end of the latter's term of office in our country.

[Excerpt] [*JN0908213688 Sanaa Domestic Serive in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 88*]

Hammadi To Join Seven-Member Committee

JN1008114288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0958 10 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—The seven-member Arab committee delegation entrusted with following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war left for Moscow today on a visit to the USSR. The delegation includes Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In a statement to INA, Sa'dun Hammadi said this visit is part of the committee's efforts to explain to the UN Security Council five permanent member states some important issues pertaining to UN Security Council Resolution 598. He pointed out that the seven-member committee, which supported Iraq's stand, especially since it is a right and just stand, is carrying out this mission—which includes the article on negotiations between Iraq and Iran—and implementing what the committee has agreed on during its meeting in Baghdad on 2 August aimed at achieving an honorable, lasting, and just peace.

Hammadi said that setting a date for a cease-fire and direct negotiations is in itself an important and positive development on the road to implementing Resolution 598. He added that this is a happy day that deserves delight and celebration because it is truly a day of victory. He added that direct negotiations will lead to mutual understanding of the resolution's other provisions and to implementation of this resolution according to the sequence of its clauses. He said direct negotiations are important to the peace process because they relate to settling all problems between Iraq and Iran on the one hand and between Iran and the Arab Gulf states on the other—problems which in one way or another led to the war. He said that some of these problems worsened during the war and this is why we seek to settle them and reach a true, lasting, and just peace. The minister of state for foreign affairs stressed that the coming stage requires that the Iranian side practically prove that it seeks a true, lasting peace with Iraq and the Arab nation. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad arrived in Baghdad today.

Klibi Calls To Congratulate 'Aziz on 'Victory'

JN0908213488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening received a telephone call from Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. During the telephone conversation, Chedli Klibi asked 'Aziz to convey his congratulations to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the heroic Iraqi people on victory day. The Arab League secretary general paid tribute to the wisdom and courage of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, and to his prominent role in realizing victory and peace.

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Extends Congratulations

JN1008214388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim today received a telephone call from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, fraternal Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister. During their conversation, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah congratulated His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the Armed Forces, and the Iraqi people on their clear victory which materialized thanks to the wisdom of the Iraqi leadership and steadfastness of its people.

President Awards Pilot 'Al-Qadisiyah Hero' Medal

JN1008194588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today granted an Iraqi pilot the title of Al-Qadisiyah Hero—one of the highest Iraqi military medals. The pilot is First Lieutenant Qasim Hasan Hamad al-Dulaymi who avoided capture after his plane was hit 40 km inside the Iranian territory late last month. He remained there for 6 days enduring injury, hunger, and thirst until he reached the forward Iraqi units and returned safely to the homeland. Al-Qadisiyah Hero 1st Lt Qasim held a news conference here earlier today in which he spoke about his experience. He also appeared on Baghdad television tonight reviewing with splendid humbleness the hours and minutes he spent during the 6 days inside the Iranian territory.

INA Refutes Reports on Meetings With Israel

JN1008151688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1438 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has described Israeli reports claiming that the Israeli energy minister recently met with an Iraqi official as ridiculous. The news agency recalled it is not the Iraqis who meet with Zionists, since Zionism is the ally of Iran and the enemy of Iraq. It added that those far and near know Iraq's stand on the Zionists and the Zionists' stand on Iraq. The agency affirmed that these allegations are Zionist test balloons whose objectives and aims are known, will deceive nobody, and are rejected.

Ramadan Delivers Messages on 4-Day Arab Tour Leaves for Cairo

JN0808091588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, left for Cairo today. In a statement to INA, Ramadan said he will convey a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the developing bilateral

relations between Iraq and Egypt, the recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war, and the current Arab situation. Ramadan added that his visit to Egypt falls within the framework of consultation and coordination with Arab brothers and leaders to brief them on the Iraqi stand on UN Resolution No 598 and to reaffirm Iraq's honest endeavor to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace through direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran to implement the resolution in a practical, clear, and accurate way with all its articles and according to their sequence.

Ramadan praised Iraqi-Egyptian relations and their continuous development. He said Presidents Saddam Husayn and Husni Mubarak look after these relations and direct them. He affirmed that the development in Iraqi-Egyptian relations will strength Arab unity and solidarity in confronting the Khomeyniite and Zionist plots and defiance. Ramadan highly valued the responsible pan-Arab stand of the Egyptian president, government, and people as well as their support for Iraq in its defense of its sovereignty and the Arab nation's dignity. Ramadan is accompanied by the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Returns From Trip

JN1108085788 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, President leader Saddam Husayn's special envoy, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister, returned to Baghdad early today at the end of a 4-day tour of Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco

During the tour, President leader Saddam Husayn's special envoy conveyed messages from his excellency to his brothers Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and King Hassan II of Morocco. A number of ministers welcomed home the first deputy prime minister.

Describes Tour as 'Useful'

JN1108105288 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, August 11, INA—President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to the Egyptian, Algerian and Tunisian presidents and to the Moroccan king, Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan returned here early today. Mr Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and first deputy premier, conveyed, during the 4-day tour, messages to President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia and King Hassan II of Morocco.

In a statement upon arrival here, Mr Ramadan described the tour as highly successful and useful, saying the talks he had conducted in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco were cordial, in which views were identical on pan-Arab issues. The talks would surely lead to strengthening and unifying Arab solidarity in the face of foreign aggressions and conspiracies against the Arb nation, the envoy said. The Iraqi leadership was eager to go on boosting relations with brotherly Arab countries in service of interests of the Arab nation.

Mr Ramadan added he informed the presidents of Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia and the Moroccan king of Iraq's stand on peace, stressing that Iraq "wants to have a lasting, comprehensive and genuine peace to be established through negotiations to lay down detailed, well-defined and sound bases of peace between Iraq and Iran, in the Arab gulf and in the region as a whole."

Mr Ramadan said the Arab brethren were also briefed on victories realized by Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, and big defeats that afflicted the regime of Tehran and its Armed Forces. He mentioned that Iraqi victories opened wide the doors of peace, compelling the rulers of Iran to enter through these doors, having closed in front of them the doors of aggression, greedy intentions and expansionism. He added that he informed Arab brethren of Iraq's desire to have peace and the serious, genuine efforts being made by it (Iraq) since early days of the Iranian aggression.

The Iraqi initiative to accept a ceasefire and enter into direct negotiations came to crown a series of peaceful stances by Iraq, Mr Ramadan noted. He stressed that the Egyptian, Algerian and Tunisian presidents and the Moroccan king requested him to convey their regards and heartfelt congratulations to President Saddam Husayn and to the people of Iraq for the heroic stand maintained by them over 8 years of the war, a stand that brought them at the end, victory and peace.

Arab brethren expressed great happiness over victories scored by Iraq, under the banner of President Husayn, Mr Ramadan said. The Arab brethren, Mr Ramadan said, affirmed that Iraq's victory was victory for all Arabs and that victory had deepened the Arabs' confidence in their ability to encounter challenges, aggression and aggressors. They also lauded President Husayn's initiative, considering it an initiative of a brave, peace-loving leader, who is keen to achieve permanent, complete and just peace, the Iraqi first deputy premier said.

The Arab brethren reiterated their backing and support for Iraq in its stand to have enduring and comprehensive peace through direct negotiations based on sound and firm bases, and to establish permanent and genuine peace according to the sequential order of items of the Security Council Resolution No 598, Mr Ramadan mentioned. He added that leaders of the Arab countries he already toured expressed appreciation of their countries' developing relations with Iraq, stressing eagerness to explore new prospects to foster cooperation with Iraq and expressing confidence that future relations between their countries and Iraq will be rosy in all fields.

Shamir Favors 'Israeli Law' in Territories

TA1008173488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] A storm erupted today during the Inner Cabinet session, with sharp exchanges taking place between the Likud and Alignment ministers, especially between the prime minister and the vice prime minister. The session, which was scheduled to deal with Husayn's speech, turned into platform for the two parties to express their positions regarding the necessary policy. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin recording] Even after this morning's Inner Cabinet session there are no new statements, except for the fact that for the first time Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced he is in favor of implementing Israeli law in all of Eretz Yisra'el, adding that Eretz Yisra'el is entirely ours. The prime minister said that annexation is a harsh expression, and that one does not annex what belongs to one anyway.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres attacked Minister Sharon's proposal for unilateral annexation. Peres says that we must not hide behind the excuse that there is nobody to talk to. First of all, we ourselves must be ready to talk. Peres added that Husayn needs peace as much as we do, and that Husayn, too, has no alternative. Peres believes we can reach an arrangement according to which the IDF will be deployed along the Jordan, with territories left over to be demilitarized; the IDF, then, will not have to do police work.

Minister Moshe Nisim said there will always be a Jordanian option for peace negotiations. Those who believe there is an option for territorial compromise, however, are mistaken.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin retorted by asking whether there is an option for annexation. Are the Likud ministers willing to grant a real and full autonomy, or do they want people to float in the air?

The prime minister concluded the discussion by saying that the basic issues will be decided in the elections, adding that there is no vacuum in the territories and our rule there is continuing. According to Shamir, there is no disagreement over the fact that we must prevent the establishment of the Palestinian state. [end recording]

Comments on Peace Moves

TA1108072288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Menahem Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] The first guest on our program is Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Good morning, sir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Friedman] Various people close to you politically—the most prominent of them being Ari'el Sharon—have in the last few days been talking about the annexation of at least parts of Judaea and Samaria in the wake of Husayn's decision to disengage himself from these areas. We have not yet heard your position on the matter, sir. Perhaps you would be so kind as to give it now.

[Shamir] I have voiced my position in the clearest possible way on more than one occasion, including in my speech at the Knesset yesterday. In my opinion, Israel still adheres to the Camp David accords. This means that we honor our international commitments and we will not effect any unilateral moves, such as imposing Israeli law on areas which should be the subject of negotiations. This is my position, and I have not said otherwise at any time or place, not even at yesterday's Inner Cabinet session.

[Friedman] Some people had the impression that you may favor enforcement of Israeli law in the territories over annexation because the latter word is too grating. Were you misinterpreted?

[Shamir] That is incorrect. I would not call this a misinterpretation; I think it was a malicious misinterpretation. For a long time I have been saying that for the sake of its own interests and its political standing, Israel must honor its international commitments. That is why Israel tells all international elements around the world that it adheres to the Camp David accords, and also demands from them that they honor the principles agreed upon in the Camp David accords.

[Friedman] King Husayn has declared that he is not interested in the territories, and the PLO, as is well known, is completely out of the question as a partner to negotiations as far as Israel is concerned. Who is your interlocutor on the autonomy plan you adhere to?

[Shamir] Look, we signed an agreement with Egypt in which the United States played a major role. To this day, we are prepared to conduct negotiations on that agreement or within the framework of that agreement both with Egypt, the United States, and, I would add, also with Jordan. According to the Camp David accords, Jordan must be a partner to such negotiations, and King Husayn, even in his remarks over the last few days, reiterated that he has not cut himself out of peace negotiations.

[Dan] Still, Mr Shamir, do you not think that in the absence of Israeli initiative and political action, facts are being established in the field without us—facts which may ultimately leave us no choice other than to talk to the PLO, because it will be the only interlocutor left?

[Shamir] We cannot and we will not talk to the PLO because the PLO is not interested in peace. To this day, the PLO has not deviated one iota from its ideology concerning the destruction of Israel. When they talk

about a Palestinian state within these or other borders, they mean this as the first phase in their plan for the annihilation of Israel. There is no sense, therefore, in talking to the PLO. We are prepared to talk to Palestinian Arabs who are not PLO members. We are prepared to talk to them with Jordan or without Jordan. It would be better to talk to them together with Jordan and Egypt, because such a composition would help guarantee that the agreement that is signed is honored.

[Friedman] When you say Arabs who are not PLO members, do you mean the formula first voiced by Menahem Begin—which the Alignment often quotes—to the effect that we will not put them under a microscope as long as they are not active PLO members?

[Shamir] That was a passing and incidental phrase. I mean real Palestinian Arabs who are not PLO members and who do not identify with the PLO. One must bear in mind that political positions and ideological identity and affiliation are no less important than active participation in these or other activities. It must therefore be emphasized in political discussions that peace negotiations should be held with elements interested in peace, not with elements who are interested in the exact opposite.

[Dan] You keep talking about a so-called autonomy option. Is this not an illusion? Are you not completely ignoring what is currently happening in the territories?

[Shamir] The same could apply to peace in general. One could say that talking about peace is an illusion. In my opinion, however, we should never despair of peace simply because reality has doomed us—Arabs and Jews—to live together in this land. We therefore cannot and should not despair of peace. Even if at the moment there are very few chances of sitting around the negotiating table tomorrow—not under any formula—we must not drop this issue and must constantly work toward any chance for peace negotiations.

[Friedman] Part of the peace issue is the Tabah negotiations which resumed in Cairo with little success. The Israeli delegation presented a position based on the premise of future Egyptian sovereignty in the area. Does this mean that we have come to terms with the fact that Tabah will actually not be in our hands in the future?

[Shamir] It is not right to say that the Israeli delegation presented a position based on the premise of Egyptian sovereignty over the area. It told the Egyptians: Seeing that you are sure that the arbiters are going to rule in your favor, if you are interested in negotiating with us and in finding some kind of compromise, please tell us what you propose. To my regret, the Egyptians have not yet made any clear proposals or anything conducive to the attainment of a compromise before the arbiters end their deliberations; however, as we have been hearing in the last few hours, the Egyptians are still willing to pursue negotiations. In other words, they see a chance of reaching a compromise with us. Incidentally, in such cases, compromise is better than some kind of categorical ruling that cannot be appealed.

[Dan] Mr Shamir, let us for a moment forget about a possible Egyptian compromise. Are you not worried that Israel may lose Tabah in the ruling, and is that not the reason why Israel must reach a compromise with Egypt in negotiations rather than wait for the ruling of the arbiters?

[Shamir] You know I have always favored conciliation over arbitration, because I think Tabah need not be a bone of contention between Israel and Egypt or a source of friction and dispute, and I think it is better that two countries living in peace should find the middle road when there are disputes between them. I am in favor of compromise today as well.

[Dan] Mr Shamir, they say you lost your temper in yesterday's Inner Cabinet session. Do you occasionally get very angry and lose control?

[Shamir] I usually do not lose my temper. I try to ensure that restraint prevails over Cabinet and Inner Cabinet sessions and that we do not raise our voices beyond the acceptable norms. Occasionally someone will raise his voice or place too much emphasis on certain words. I do not think I lost control. I do not think I said anything I should not have said, and I do not think I said anything that was not right. Occasionally one reaches the limit of one's patience and self-restraint. I hope Cabinet and Inner Cabinet sessions will continue to be held in the future in an atmosphere that is conducive to unanimous and mutually-acceptable resolutions.

[Friedman] Mr Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, thank you very much

[Further on in the program, Friedman reports the reaction of the Labor Party's spokesperson to the interview: "Prime Minister Shamir time and again tries to conceal from the public his and the Likud's true position about the political issues. The only thing the Likud and Shamir really want is to annex 1.5 million Arabs. This would lead to a binational state which would represent a real threat to the security of the State of Israel. The fact that Shamir says one thing while Moda'i and Sharon say another attests to the confusion plaguing the Likud's leadership."]

Speaks on Husayn Moves

TA1008105588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0837 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at extraordinary Knesset session, replying to motions to the agenda by MAPAM and Citizens Rights Movement—live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, Members of the Knesset:

I attentively listened to the remarks of the Knesset members [MK] in the wake of whose motions to the agenda the Knesset was summoned today.

It is no wonder that the events of the last few weeks have unnerved the Israeli people and elicited emotional reactions. At the same time, however, I would initially suggest to all of us that we remain levelheaded and sober, not only because we are an experienced people but also because the problems and the protagonists in our region are well known to us. The moves over which the country is up in arms may have illustrated and highlighted parts of the whole picture, but did not change its nature. [Heckling by MK Tawfiq Tubi of HADASH] You say new things every day; for 50 years you have been saying new things.

The issue which has been at the center of our national interest in the past, at present, and at all times is how the State of Israel can defend its peace and security and how to find Arab partners to pursue the peace process begun with Egypt 10 years ago by the Israeli Government. This depends, more than on any other factor, on the ability of the State of Israel to show strength, determination, and a national position acceptable to most of its citizens. This will be our test, and if we succeed in it—and, with God's help, we will—these or other Arab plans aimed at liquidating the State of Israel will carry no weight.

It is our obligation to the citizens of Israel, to the Jewish world, and to ourselves to speak clearly. We will continue, now and in the future, to do everything we can to arrive at an honest dialogue with our Arab neighbors on both sides of the Jordan River. This is our obligation since history has destined us to live next to each other forever. We will continue to strive for peace on the basis of this conception and on the position, acceptable to the vast majority of the Israeli nation, that between the sea and the desert there will only be two states—a Jewish state with Jerusalem as its capital and an Arab one with its capital east of the Jordan River—and that their coexistence should be determined through negotiations.

Nevertheless, the Israeli people and the Jewish nation in the diaspora should know that the root of the problem between Israel and the Arabs—namely, the Arabs' refusal to recognize Israel's existence—has not yet been eradicated. Although we have reached peace with Egypt, Syria continues to threaten with war and this latter threat, along with the missile race which has been particularly evident in our region this year, has not vanished. Moreover, the tragedy which has pervaded the Palestinian leadership for 70 years has not ended either. Instead of producing a leadership that would lead the Palestinian people, many of whom are peace-seekers, to coexistence with us, it has been inflicting one disaster after another on its people amid extremism, insanity, and thirst for Jewish blood.

The moves of the Jordanian king over the past week only illustrated the complexity and intricacies within the Jordanian-Palestinian camp and the hostility between King Husayn and the PLO.

What happened recently to make the Jordanian Kingdom change its position? Does this affect the position of the State of Israel? It is our duty to analyze the reasons for Husayn's moves for our own purposes, not through journalistic interpretations which are not the duty of a government, but as a basis for the fulfillment of our political and operational duties.

As is known, history did not begin in 1967. The original area of Eretz Yisra'el, which the British received through a mandate from the League of Nations after World War I, included what is today the recognized sovereign boundaries of the State of Israel, as well as Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and the Jordanian Kingdom. For their own reasons, the British carried out a major partition of the area so that four-fifths of it became Trans-Jordan, later to become the Jordanian Kingdom, and only about one-fifth remained part of Eretz Yisra'el to which the mandate applied. During the British mandate, the Jewish population tried to maintain friendly relations with Amir 'Abdallah, King Husayn's grandfather. Unfortunately, the leaders of the Arabs of western Eretz Yisra'el were not prepared for peaceful coexistence. In 1947, all the Arabs categorically rejected the UN partition plan, thus making it null and void. All the Arab armies, including the Jordanian Legion, invaded the newly-born State of Israel. Later, 'Abdallah announced the annexation of Judaea and Samaria to his Kingdom, a move which received international recognition from only two countries.

At that time, too, we stretched out our hand in peace, but it was rejected. Jordan did not even abide by the armistice agreement which was attained through arduous negotiations. Contrary to the agreement, we were banned access to our holiest sites such as the Western Wall, the ancient cemetery on the Mount of Olives was desecrated and its tombstones were used to tile bathrooms in a Jordanian military camp, Hebrew University on Mount Scopus served as a military enclave and was not used for academic purposes. Then came the 6-Day War which was forced on us by the Egyptians, the Syrians, and their allies. Jordan joined the ring which the Arabs attempted to close around us, and despite the message it received from Israel at the beginning of the war, it attacked us. Husayn, the leader who has showed his prowess in surviving 35 years in power, gambled perhaps for the first time in his life, but his gamble failed. At the end of the war, Judaea and Samaria were under Israeli control.

As evident from what I said above, on the eve of the 6-Day War there was no recognized sovereignty in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Through a political decision and for the sake of political convenience and legal stability, rather than as recognition of Jordanian sovereignty, Israel agreed to enforce the law prevailing on the

eve of the war, subject to the legislative authority of the military commander, until the question of sovereignty is settled. There is no need to reiterate from this forum what is known to all: Israel has rights in everything pertaining to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Manifesto No 2 on government and legal procedures announced, on behalf of the IDF commander, that—and I quote: The law which prevailed in the area on 7 June 1967 will remain in effect, to the extent that it does not run counter to this manifesto or any other manifesto or decree to be issued by me, and following amendments stemming from the enforcement of the IDF's rule over the area.

The Military Government set up by Israel and the Civil Administration operates in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. There is no doubt whatsoever—and this point is of utmost importance—that the task of administering the area and maintaining law and order in it lies with the State of Israel alone. It has done so since 1967 and will continue to do so. Needless to say that as far as a reunited Jerusalem is concerned, Israel enforced its sovereign laws and publicly determined that Jerusalem is its sovereign and eternal capital and will not be redivided under any circumstances whatsoever, of course while preserving the right of members of all faiths to freedom of worship. Indeed, there has never been more freedom in the city than there is now. It should be pointed out that throughout the years Israel, in its legal policy in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, has insisted that these are not areas under its occupation. It therefore applied the humanitarian decrees of the fourth Geneva Convention although it did not accept the principle of the Convention's application.

In the Camp David accords of 1978, which are to mark their 10th anniversary within a few days, Israel, Egypt, and the United States agreed on a framework of peace for the Middle East. Jordan was invited to join, but, unfortunately, it has not done so. Had the autonomy negotiations been completed, the negotiations on the final settlement could have already been behind us today. [Heckling by various Knesset members]

Israel believes that the Camp David agreement is still the best framework for a peace process. Indeed, the basic guidelines of the national unity government set up in 1984 stipulate—and I quote: Israel will continue to place the struggle for peace at the top of its concerns, will take action to pursue the peace process according to the framework agreed on at Camp David, and will call on Jordan to open peace negotiations—end of quote.

These words are still valid. At Camp David we undertook to conduct negotiations, and we are prepared to do so today as well. Of course, by the same token, we expect all other sides to abide by their international commitments, because a unilateral commitment cannot be eternal by its very definition.

We therefore call for the implementation of these accords. Even if it was not a party to them, these accords assured Jordan a respectable position in the negotiations. As is known, Egypt and the United States took part in securing the agreement and are signatories to it, and agreements are made to be honored.

You can see for yourselves that King Husayn's speech announcing his secession from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza did not create a legal vacuum, because the current apparatus in the area continues to operate in the present parameters. Jordan's decision therefore harms the Arab residents, rather than the State of Israel, which will continue to maintain the normal military and legal rule in these areas and which in all respects has the right and the obligation to do so.

Jordan's recent steps were aimed primarily at the PLO, which believed it would forever be able to enjoy Jordan's services and its aid to the population on the one hand, and to slander Jordan on the other. Relations between the PLO and Jordan are none of our business. As far as we are concerned, what is important is that Jordan uphold security along the Jordan River so as not to repeat the mistakes of the past—and we hope it will do so. At the same time, we are sorry for the suffering that will be inflicted upon the population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza due to the Jordanian measures. King Husayn apparently believes he does not enjoy the support of the population in the area, and that may be so; however, the PLO is wrong when it deludes the local population, in whose well-being we are interested and with whom we want to coexist, and feeds it false beliefs.

There is a national consensus in Israel against negotiations with the PLO, a murderous organization [heckling by various Knesset members] whose sole objective is to annihilate the State of Israel. There is also a national consensus that there will not be a second Arab state on our eastern border. For better or for worse, Jordan is a state with a Palestinian majority and no Israeli Government will lend a hand to false and hypocritical demands for Palestinian self-determination that are not anchored in any international reality. Incidentally, on more than one occasion in the past Jordan has said that it and the Palestinians are one and that the disengagement, which may have stemmed from the regime's internal fears, does not change anything. It must be clear as day, regardless of whether this is a strategic or a tactical Jordanian move whose dynamics the Jordanians cannot control anyway, that the State of Israel will not play this game. Israel will also act with determination to prevent the materialization of any idea—to the extent it is promoted by some demented people—about a Palestinian government and so forth. These people will encounter an iron fist which will not leave even a trace of such efforts. Everybody in Israel agrees to this, and this agreement is based on determination and general national consensus.

And what about the future? As already said, we see ourselves committed to the Camp David Accords and demand that future negotiations continue to be based on

them. We want an agreement with Jordan and negotiations with it, as well as with the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We will pursue this struggle and we will continue to seek any possible opening for direct peace negotiations between Israel and Jordan, whose border with us is the longest. We will also seek a settlement for the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza within the framework of the Camp David Accords. [Heckling by various Knesset members]

Hence, King Husayn's moves will not influence either our struggle for peace or Israel's policy toward these areas—a policy of restoring calm, maintaining the governing apparatus and the Civil Administration, and acting against all the PLO's groups and factions. One of our hands will work on peace, while the other will hold our weapons poised against all our enemies.

We call on the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el to end the disturbances and their support for them, because this will only bring disaster upon them, and to take action toward joining a genuine peace process; not a false process meant as a cover for a demand to liquidate us. Israel is willing to conduct direct negotiations with all the neighboring states, including Syria, despite its radical policy. Egypt, which has signed a peace agreement with us, must help pursue this process by, among other things, improving the quality of peace between us.

Mr Speaker, Members of the Knesset:

The main premise, the fundamental condition for the success of any peace process, for the encouragement of those who yearn for it and for the detrement of enemies, is internal strength through national unity, economic stability, [heckling by MK Tawfiq Tubi] and, first and foremost, faith in the justness of our way. Only through internal strength will the words of the prophet Isaiah come true: No weapon that is fashioned against you shall prosper, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. Only then will what is promised to the Sons of Israel in this week's chapter of Deuteronomy: When you go over the Jordan, and live in the land which the Lord your God gives you to inherit, and when he gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you live in safety... [Heckling by various Knesset members] How dare you interrupt me when I am reading a verse from the Bible! Do you not respect the Bible either?

Knesset Speaker, in view of the fact that the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee generally deals with these issues, I propose that these motions also be transferred to this committee for discussion.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 10 August reports that "with the maiority of the coalition votes, the Knesset plenum decided to transfer the motions on the agenda regarding developments in our region and the territories to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee."]

Peres Denies Reports of 'Promise' to Husayn

TA1108110988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Pe'erli Shahar on 11 August in Kefar Sava—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Shahar] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Jordan's King Husayn says he is disappointed because you did not make good on your promise to disband the national unity government if it failed to pass a resolution on participating in an international conference. Did you really make him such a promise?

[Peres] First of all, I did not hear him say that. I heard that an American academic says he heard as much from him. It is hard for me to believe that he heard such things, because Husayn denies that such meetings took place at all and I second the king's denial. The entire story seems fishy to me, and I do not take it seriously.

[Shahar] And what about the claim that King Husayn believes you are one of the most successful leaders in the region?

[Peres] He could have reached that same conclusion even without having met with me; therefore, this is more difficult to deny.

[Shahar] What is your reaction to reports that the Jordanian king decided to sever ties with the West Bank because the Israeli Government refused to approve military censorship of the PLO papers in Judaea and Samaria?

[Peres] This also sounds rather exaggerated. I am sure the king knows that Israel is a democratic regime—and this applies to all newspapers and to the press in general. We do not censor opinions; we censor reports of a security nature. Basically, I think the king's moves are related to his relations with the PLO more than to anything else. [passage omitted]

Comments on Separate Talks

TA1008170088 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by Yaqir Tzur]

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, does not rule out the possibility of holding separate negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians. In a meeting with top journalists from Boston, Peres said that if Jordan and the Palestinians want to conduct separate talks—negotiations for peace with Jordan and negotiations toward a solution to the Palestinian problem—it is up to them. "We will be willing to talk to Jordan and the Palestinians, jointly or separately," Peres said.

Answering a question on how a government he would head would ensure Israel's security if there is a territorial compromise, Peres said that such a government would insist that the Jordan River be Israel's security border, not to be crossed by any foreign army. All the territory Israel would give up in future negotiations would become demilitarized. Sophisticated warning stations would be placed along the Jordan River to avoid a surprise. Peres stressed that in any event, a government he would lead would not agree to divide Jerusalem.

Referring to King Husayn's steps, Peres said that they are closely connected to Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Peres said that Husayn realized that he has been footing the bill for the PLO flags that are hoisted in the territories. He added that the idea of of disengagement from the territories is not new; it was raised 14 years ago, in 1974, and made headlines then as well. Peres said that the notion of autonomy, which is currently the only plan the Likud is willing to discuss, requires the participation of Jordan. He added that he still maintains that the Palestinian-Jordanian framework is the best because within it demilitarization, which is part and parcel of the solution, can be ensured.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ on 10 August in a Page 1 report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori adds that "following recent events in the territories and Husayn's announcement of severing ties with the territories, there is a tendency in the Labor Party to make some changes in the party's platform and election themes. The draft platform will state that, contrary to previous party convention resolutions, the party will now be willing to hold separate rounds of negotiations with a Jordanian and with a Palestinian delegation.

[The Labor Party will claim that the choice is between a real threat and a great opportunity, and that a Jewish majority on most of the territory is better than losing the majority on all of the territory.

[The party's motto concerning the intifada [uprising] will be: Violence Will Not Succeed. We will see to it, using all the available means and without hesitation. At the same time, it is not the mission of the security forces to find the solution for the Palestinian problem. This can be attained only through political means. It will be stressed that the Likud had sabotaged the London agreement, thus perpetuating the political freeze."]

Rabin on Task of Holding PLO 'in Check'

TA1008073788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Aug 88 p 12

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish and Mikhal Yudelman]

[Excerpts] The PLO must not be allowed to enhance its influence and hold over the West Bank as a result of King Husayn's decision to cut his ties with the area, Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday. He told the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that it was his ministry's task to ensure that the PLO was thus held in check.

Among Husayn's "very good reasons for his decision" was his "total frustration with the U.S., Israel and the PLO."

Rabin said that while Husayn might take further steps to make his decision permanent and irreversible, he also might well be asked by Yasir 'Arafat to backtrack, whereupon he would dictate his own conditions to the PLO chief.

The defence minister said the disarray caused on the West Bank by the king had led to a decrease in violence. "If we take appropriate measures, we can hamper the uprising further and thwart the PLO by cutting it off from the territories," he declared.

"Whatever political moves occur in the future can only benefit from our proving that the PLO has achieved nothing and that it is powerless to change the situation," the minister said.

He said he was continuing to meet Palestinians in the areas, even though none of them were yet "partners for negotiation." [passage omitted]

Sneering at Labour for its "Jordanian Option," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday that Husayn himself had announced that this kind of territorial compromise had no chance. Shamir spoke to Jabotinsky Order members at Bet Wizo.

"The Labour Party today has no peace programme. There are no Arabs ready for any kind of territorial compromise and even if there was, we wouldn't accept such a compromise, because it endangers our existence," he said.

Asked why he or his office had leaked the Faysal al-Husayni document, Shamir replied: "There are reasons." He said Al-Husayni wants to destroy Israel. "The demands in the document are their minimum demands. But even these are just a trick leading to Arab conquest of the whole of Eretz Yisra'el," Shamir said.

'Sharp Exchanges' Mark Inner Cabinet Meeting

TA1008110488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] There were sharp exchanges this morning between Labor and Likud ministers at the Inner Cabinet meeting. Foreign Minister Peres said the Likud has opposed every peace proposal, including that with Egypt and the withdrawal from Lebanon. Prime Minister Shamir replied that Peres supports the Arab version that the Likud is a roadblock to peace. Peres said: No one can accuse me of

being unfaithful to the peace process, and there is no limit to the truth. Shamir responded: But there is a limit to lies. More from reporter Jack Katzenell:

It was one of the ugliest exchanges ever seen in the Inner Cabinet. Eyewitnesses said that the prime minister and the foreign minister were facing each other red-faced, just inches apart, waving their hands as they spoke. You are supporting the Arab stand, Shamir accused Peres, as though we, the Likud, were preventing peace. Nobody will make me budge from my belief in peace, Peres replied; no other way to achieve it. The truth knows no frontiers, Peres added. But there is a limit to the lies you can tell, Shamir retorted.

Education Minister Yitzhaq Navon came to the defense of Shim'on Peres, but the Likud's Yitzhaq Moda'i taunted Navon: You can't even manage the education system. Turning to Shamir, Moda'i said: Don't argue with Peres; his idea of truth is well known.

In a long statement on the state of the economy, Peres attacked Finance Minister Moshe Nisim. What is there to be proud of? Peres asked. Wherever you turn, things are going to pieces. Kibbutzim and moshavim are collapsing, companies are closing down every day, Jewish land is passing into non-Jewish hands, and the banks are getting rich at the expense of the economy.

Nisim's policy was also criticized by the minister of commerce and industry, Ari'el Sharon.

Avraham Tamir Returns From Tabah Talks in Cairo
TA1008160688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Avraham Tamir, Foreign Ministry director general, by Dan Shilon and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Mr Tamir.

[Tamir] Good evening.

[Shilon] Have you returned from Cairo empty-handed or not?

[Tamir] I have returned from Cairo with outstretched hands.

[Shilon] Outstretched for a handout or for something substantial?

[Tamir] Outstretched for peace.

[Dan] The Egyptians pleaded that you remain in Egypt after the Israeli delegation returns home. Do they like you so much? Why did they want you in particular to remain there?

[Tamir] Look, I am not responsible for these reports. I could have stayed there for another day, but I did not do so. All the reports that appeared today, however, are completely groundless.

[Shilon] Turning to the issue itself, what is it that is hindering Israel and Egypt from reaching an agreement on the Tabah issue?

[Tamir] There are simply differences of opinion. The Egyptians are convinced they have already won or are about to win the arbitration, and they are willing to reach agreements on the basis of this premise.

[Shilon] Do you too feel that the Egyptians have won or are about to win the arbitration?

[Tamir] For the sake of the negotiations, my colleagues and I are taking such a possibility into consideration.

[Dan] Nevertheless, we have not agreed to reach a compromise and an agreement. Is it not preferable to yield in the talks with Egypt rather than leave the issue for the arbitrators?

[Tamir] Well, this issue of taking a decision regarding Egyptian sovereignty and ending the arbitration process before the arbitrators take this decision is quite difficult for many people.

[Shilon] What recommendations will you submit to the political echelon, which has to take the decision regarding the Tabah issue?

[Tamir] I hope we can still change the Egyptian positions regarding several issues that are in the U.S. proposal, and this has been our position all along this year. If we can indeed reach agreement on these issues, I think I will recommend acceptance.

[Dan] To what extent have the internal differences of opinion within the Israeli delegation prevented us from reaching better understanding with the Egyptians?

[Tamir] Are you referring to the story about the ambassador or all the other stories?

[Dan] I am referring, for example, to the sharp attacks against Yosi Ben-Aharon.

[Tamir] I do not know what is the source of the story regarding the way Ben-Aharon conducted the talks; I think this story is inaccurate and should not have been disseminated.

[Shilon] Mr Tamir, we have been dealing with the Tabah issue for a very long time now. Is it really worth all the trouble?

[Tamir] This is a question to ask after the arbitration decision is made, and you should ask all those who started this problem. In my opinion we have been dealing with this problem for too long; it is too costly and is causing too much agitation. We have missed the opportunity of solving it satisfactorily at least twice.

Ben-Aharon Sums Up Talks

TA1008062688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by moderator Shalom Qital and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] [Qital] Mr Ben-Aharon, how would you describe what happened in Cairo: a crisis or the end to the talks?

[Ben-Aharon] With your permission, I must first point out that we left on a mission on behalf of the political level—the prime minister—and upon our return we must first report to him. What I can say is that we operated according to the guidelines given to us by the political level, which stipulated that we should try to find an acceptable formula for a modus vivendi in Tabah, regardless of the question of sovereignty. We did not give in on the question of sovereignty; neither did we have the authority to dwell on this issue. Of course, the Egyptians did not like this very much, because they would have liked to assume that sovereignty is already in their pocket. Therefore, they discussed every issue based on the premise of Egyptian sovereignty and what they, as it were, could grant us. This somewhat hindered the negotiations, because they were conducted on hypothetical grounds.

At the same time, in my meeting with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid and in the session with the Egyptian delegation with the active participation of the Americans, there was an atmosphere of willingness to discuss issues. The 1st day of the talks was difficult, not only because no progress was made but also because the Egyptians actually reneged on positions we knew they had accepted in previous rounds of talks with the Americans; on the 2d day there was a certain softening in the Egyptian position, as if their opening position was exaggerated in order to give them leeway in the negotiations.

The bottom line is that we could not set a date for continuing the negotiations; we had to go home, report to our superiors, and see where we stood. A decision must then be made by the prime minister and the political level on whether there is room to proceed on with the negotiations with Egypt.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Ben-Aharon, the question is not whether it was the presence of Abraham Sofaer and the U.S. delegation—which, as you yourself say, caused a certain softening—but rather the U.S. proposal on Egyptian sovereignty in exchange for special arrangements for Israeli tourists that brought the sides closer?

[Ben-Aharon] We did not want to hold any debate based on the premise of Egyptian sovereignty. We told the Egyptians: If you demand sovereignty, what sort of modus vivendi do you foresee in the area under those circumstances? We added that Egyptian sovereignty aside, we would still have to discuss a modus vivendi in keeping with the Inner Cabinet guidelines of January 1986 that the two sides must discuss a modus vivendi in the area in a pragmatic and practical fashion, regardless of the question of sovereignty. The U.S. contribution was in line with what I demanded: an attempt to help rather than determine a position.

[Ben-'Ami] And that is what happened?

[Ben-Aharon] That is what happened, and I think that this was its contribution. Previous U.S. proposals were not discussed this time.

[Qital] Mr Ben-Aharon, a question about relations within Israel, rather than on its relations with Egypt. Why did you not take Ambassador Shamir along to the last meeting?

[Ben-Aharon] In some cases, when messages have to be relayed, meetings must be held in private; this is quite common.

[Ben-'Ami] There was more than one person on the Egyptian side; Ambassador Basyuni also attended.

[Ben-Aharon] I also took along an aide, the person commonly known as a recorder. The recorder for the Egyptian side, whom I cannot choose, was Ambassador Basyuni.

[Qital] U.S. envoy Richard Murphy was also in Cairo during your stay. Prior to his trip to Cairo it was reported that he may confer with Palestinian representatives, but ultimately the meeting was called off. Is this good or bad, from your point of view?

[Ben-Aharon] This is definitely good because as far as we know Palestinian Arabs, probably with the help of the Egyptians, had tried to set a meeting between Murphy and PLO officials. The PLO tried to play the same trick several times in the past, and each time it encountered staunch U.S. opposition. It seems the same happened this time, and this is what caused the cancellation of the meeting.

[Ben-'Ami] To sum up, you will brief the prime minister this morning. Will you be able to tell him to start getting ready for a possible meeting with President Mubarak, which is actually the message you relayed to Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid?

[Ben-Aharon] I see you know more about the message than I do. As one may assume, the prime minister's message dealt with Israel's relations with Egypt and the promotion of the peace process. I hope the message sank in and we will be witnessing a change for the better in Israel's relations with Egypt.

[Qital] Yosi Ben-Aharon, thank you very much and have a good day.

Ben-Aharon Submits Full Report

TA1108103688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office and head of the Israeli delegation to the conciliation talks on Tabah, today submitted the full report on the talks held in Cairo to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Deliberations on the issue will continue at the most senior political forum.

Mr Ben-Aharon pointed out that all the reports that in the talks Israel expressed willingness to forgo sovereignty on Tabah or that there is an agreement whereby Israel will forgo sovereignty are not true.

Egyptian Views Noted

TA1008185188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Egypt will do everything in its power to prevent the Tabah dispute from becoming a central topic for the local public to busy itself with. This was stated by a high-ranking Egyptian source to Ehud Ya'ari, our correspondent in Cairo. The source added that Egypt regrets the fact that Tabah has become an election issue in Israel. At the same time, the source added that Egypt would like to reach a mutually acceptable agreement even before arbitration, even though the results of the arbitration will be in Egypt's favor. The Egyptian source also warned against the possibility Israel might try to drag things out with respect to Tabah even after the arbitration ruling. Jerusalem expects delegations from both countries to engage in another round of talks prior to the arbitration ruling.

IDF Chief of Staff Shomron Comments on Unrest

TA1008195988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1835 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, IDF chief of staff, by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky and Beni Lis, moderated by Yoram Ronen; on the 10 August "Moqed" program—videotaped]

[Excerpts] [Ronen] Chief of Staff, with your permission, let us begin with Husayn's speech and the Faysal al-Husayni document which was leaked a few days ago. What do you think is the impact of the confusion the king has brought upon the inhabitants of the territories? Is it a calming effect, or does it add more fuel to the fire of the unrest?

[Shomron] I would like to expand a little. There are four factors operating here, all interrelated. One, naturally, is King Husayn. The second is the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Third are the PLO leaders outside the territories. Fourth, of course, is Israel and our administration.

The PLO applied heavy pressure to assume the leadership of the Palestinian issue, meaning, of course, a Palestinian state. Husayn, who was pressured at the Algiers summit also, decided to step out. I suggest taking his words at face value. What he is saying is: Gentlemen, you want to go it alone, fine. I will not stand in your way.

[Shlonsky] In other words, there is no Jordanian option anymore?

[Shomron] I did not say that. If you listen to the end, you will see what he is saying. He is saying this: You are pressuring me, and I will not interfere. I will move aside. At the same time, I head the state that has the longest border with Israel. I will be party to any negotiations. Regarding your issue, I will stand on the sidelines. If you call me, I will always be happy to help on the Palestinian issue.

He was actually retaining options for himself. Nonetheless, insofar as the local residents are concerned, he created a serious problem for them. The problem was indirectly caused by the Palestinian leaders who pressured Husayn. Right now, Israel will be unable to permit them to export to Israel the produce that will not be transported to Jordan. Similarly, we will not issue them passports or pay salaries in lieu of those he refuses to pay. As always, the Palestinian leadership embroils the local population in things, using them as chess pieces.

You mentioned the Faysal al-Husayni document. There may now be a new direction, through which an outside leadership is trying to call the shots. If the result will be a government-in-exile, this, as far as I am concerned, will not indicate any substantial change. It will only mean that 'Arafat may be called head of state. Yet this will not imply any real change in the field.

[Shlonsky] Do you expect the PLO to set up a government-in-exile soon? Do you think it will declare unilateral independence in the territories within the 1946 borders?

[Shomron] I do not know. There is also the serious question of whether the various factions can reach an agreement among themselves. The second possibility is that they will declare independence for a Palestinian state based on the Palestinian Charter. This means a

Palestinian state at Israel's expense, with Jerusalem as its capital. Clearly such a state, or even such a proposal, stands no chance at all of obtaining any kind of support worldwide.

[Ronen] Even the Faysal al-Husayni paper does not claim as much.

[Shomron] True. A third possibility also exists, namely that they will declare the establishment of a Palestinian state that will recognize UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and all sorts of other things that will make the organization a different one from the real PLO. Then, of course, the issue will go back to the Cabinet and the political echelon which will have to relate specifically to whatever proposal will really be up for discussion.

[Shlonsky] You are talking about a probability, but do you actually expect this to happen and a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and government-in-exile to be proclaimed? What are the chances for this?

[Shomron] They are debating the issue, and certain such proposals have been raised at the highest levels. They are holding a conference at the end of the month. I presume this will be the main topic for discussion there.

As to your question on what our predictions are, I think they, too, have no idea today what kind of resolution will be adopted there. They would be facing a great risk should they pass a resolution they will be unable to implement. In that case, the disappointment the inhabitants of the territories will feel will be enormous. It would be extremely risky to promote bombastic proposals that stand no chance of materializing.

[Lis] According to your assessment, is Husayn bowing out and leaving the territories?

[Shomron] I said very clearly that he is waiting on the sidelines and that all the options are open.

[Lis] If he is waiting on the sidelines, perhaps you share the Intelligence Branch chief's opinion that the PLO will then be the sole representative of the inhabitants of the territories? Will it fill this vacuum as the foremost leadership at this stage?

[Shomron] First of all, there is no vacuum. Legally, in terms of international conventions, we were the administrators first, and we will continue to rule from now on. There is no vacuum here.

Admittedly the PLO leadership faces the problem of how to correct the problem it created here in the form of great pressure on the territories and confusion sown among the residents. It must provide some sort of answer, and it will seek a political response.

[Ronen] Do you think this confusion will lead to the birth of a new leadership in the territories?

[Shomron] It is difficult to tell what type of leadership will grow. If it pulls in the direction of a Palestinian state at Israel's expense, it is not the kind of leadership with which to hold talks. What would this yield?

[Ronen] In other words, you cannot envision a new leadership at the moment?

[Shomron] Not now.

[Shlonsky] Eight months since the outbreak of the uprising in the territories, the IDF has not managed to effect the quiet the political echelon had been expecting. From the point of view of the political level's expectations, this is actually a military failure.

[Shomron] The intifada [uprising] has been going on for 8 months now; we have been involved in war with the local Palestinian inhabitants over Eretz Yisra'el for decades, centuries. This is an ongoing war. There have been terrorist attacks. Have you forgotten the attack on the coastal road or in Ma'alot, or the raid at the airport? I would say this is a longstanding, inseparable part of our lives. The security forces' real objective of eliminating this altogether is evidently impossible. Our war with the Palestinians appears to be likewise impossible to resolve. It will continue. The only question is whether we will be able to control it and bring it to a tolerable level with which we will be able to live; and, in terms of the investment in money, reserve days, and means, whether we will be able to lower it to the level acceptable to Israel. We did this during our antiterror campaign by fighting on all fronts. The only novelty in the popular uprising now is that this is a new form of the same battle entailing a new role for the locals.

As you know from tours of the area, we are in the midst of a process. There is a constant decrease in the level of activity. If you recall, at first there were mass gatherings. That phenomenon has disappeared. Later there was an attempt to prevent locals from leaving for work. There were numerous cases of arson against buses. This is gone. Then they tried to close villages and declare independence. This is no longer seen. Then they said: The idea of Molotov cocktails is a wonderful solution. This, too, is on the decline and there are very few such incidents.

[Shlonsky] Is this decline the result of IDF activity or because they have achieved all kinds of other things thanks to the intensive start?

[Shomron] This, of course, is thanks to the IDF and the other security forces who, together, deal with the problem. Yes! I say there is a steady drop. As I stated above, I am convinced this is a long process. Nor is it something that will disappear altogether. At the same time, I believe we can limit the uprising and level of terrorism to one with which we can live in Israel and in the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and with which we could cope in terms of the investment we have to make toward achieving this.

[Ronen] What do you mean by the phrase live with it? Does it mean fear of going to the Old City of Jerusalem or boycotting Judaea and Samaria? Does it involve an actual return to the Green Line boundaries?

[Shomron] For your information, people do tour Judaea and Samaria even today.

[Ronen] Rarely.

[Shomron] They will continue to do so, too. And let me ask you: Prior to the uprising, did people tour the country? Do you have any idea how many assassinations there have been—a phenomenon we have not known for years? [sentence as heard]

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, the uprising in the territories has created a new situation in the IDF as well, not only in terms of dealing with the Palestinians in the territories but in terms of the exposure of officers to the media. Some generals have spokesmen, some are being promoted by public relations experts—in certain cases without obtaining prior permission. Many give interviews to the media. Do you think this is a healthy state of affairs?

[Shomron] This is wild slander. We are encountering a very serious media problem in the territories. As you know, the international media has no limits—neither in manpower nor, apparently, in budget. They tour the area. Rumors abound there, and rumors, after all, are part of this war or struggle. The IDF, at least, must present the Israeli side. In the current pace of events, the only way to do so and react quickly is indeed through spokesmen for the various commands. They can provide immediate reactions and comments on the spot, even if they cannot answer all the questions or comment on all the rumors. I think that the various commands have done a wonderful job in view of the intensity and load they have encountered. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] What of the declarations made only recently by generals, perhaps not about the territories but about the danger of war with Syria, the Syrian missiles, and their import? Perhaps some of these declarations were uncensored. Some of them, which were contradictory, raised doubts as to whether the chief of staff can control the generals, who are his subordinates.

[Shomron] Let me return to the issue of my control over them later. Let me now say that whoever reads the statements both by the commander of the Northern Command and the Air Force commander must realize that these are two sides of the same coin and that they are not mutually exclusive. Nevertheless, since you mentioned Syria, let me tell you what I think—and this is the Army's position. Some time ago, General (Shira'), speaking on behalf of the Syrian General Staff, made some very unambiguous and clear statements. He said that the strategic balance comprises various factors: military, economic, political, and cultural strength. In other words, he regards all these elements as a precondition for war.

The decision to launch a war is indeed a political decision. The person who must decide, Al-Asad, should indeed ask himself whether, from the military point of view, he can score achievements. He must also consider what the IDF's reaction might be, whether the Soviet Union would grant political support for such a move, and what type of backing the United States would provide Israel? He must ask himself: Will the Arab countries support me or stand aside and watch? What is my position domestically? Can I, from the point of view of the social fabric, afford to enter into a bitter war or will the people not follow me? Once all the answers to these questions are positive, I believe that Syria—which regularly declares that its solution to the Middle East conflict is war—will follow through on this line of thinking.

[Shlonsky] What do you think Al-Asad's answer is to these questions? Is he saying, we are ready, economically we can embark on a war?

[Shomron] I do not know precisely what Al-Asad is saying. The fact that he does not embark on war suggests he assumes the conditions are not ripe. Therefore, when people ask whether war is inevitable, the answer, I think, lies in what is taking place in his mind. If he mistakenly believes the conditions are ripe—by the way, he has already been mistaken in the past, he was mistaken in 1967 and in 1973...[changes thought] We in the IDF are prepared for the possibility that he will again make a mistake.

[Lis] If he does make the mistake and embarks on a war, how do you assess this next war with Syria, God forbid?

[Shomron] I do not intend to describe the scenario of the war. I can only divulge a telling detail: Two weeks before Iran's surprising announcement regarding UN Resolution 598 on a cease-fire, the IDF completed a General Staff maneuver involving the various commands, based on the assumption that the Gulf war was over and that more forces have been made available. We also took Syria into consideration in this maneuver. We are planning and examining all the possibilities and are holding maneuvers accordingly.

[Shlonsky] Was this an assessment of the situation or merely one maneuver among many?

[Shomron] I think it was linked to an assessment of the situation. We have all known that this war is in the process of dying out, despite the fact that this was presented as a surprise.

[Ronen] What conclusion did you reach during this war game? Does the end of the Gulf war create a new strategic situation the IDF has to confront?

[Shomron] Now that we are dealing with the Gulf issue, let me touch on this point. There are three stages here that overlap: The first stage is until the parties end the war. So far they have only decided on a cease-fire. This might take a long time and it is possible that the war will erupt again during the cease fire—it is difficult to say.

The second stage will include huge internal investments on the part of both countries. Infrastructures have been devastated; soldiers will be released and will require employment. In my opinion there will be difficult internal problems. Khomeyni will obviously have some serious explaining to do: He could have reached a cease-fire long ago, before there were so many casualties. The Iraqi president also is ending the war at the same point it was started 8 years ago—he has gained no achievement beyond this. People will ask him what 100,000 soldiers died for, the answer being: for nothing at all. These questions are bound to be asked.

The third stage will come when the two countries will be free of the burden of all the investments. At that point we will have to see whether Iraq, which has always been a member of the radical countries, will become a more pragmatic country after it has received all the aid from Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Or will it continue to be a radical country, in which case the situation in the Middle East will be changed against us. We must bear in mind that Iraq—once all the energy it invested in the Gulf War is released—will to a certain extent be a confrontation state. With a well-equipped and experienced Air Force and long-range surface-to-surface missiles, Iraq can no longer be considered a peripheral country—it can indeed be considered to be a confrontation state.

[Shlonsky] Our experience has shown that it has participated actively in all the wars by sending forces, and we can assume that it will not stand aside in the next war as well. From the IDF's point of view, what is the significance of the Iran-Iraq situation? Will you attempt to put an end to the process of making the Army smaller? Will you ask for an additional security budget? After all, we must prepare even now for what will take place in a year or two, rather than wait for another 2 years.

[Shomron] True. First, we are acting under the assumption that during each of the stages I have spoken about, Iraq may send some kind of an expeditionary force, a smaller one in the beginning and a larger one later on. We are also taking into consideration the possibility that Iraq might join a war which has not been coordinated with it, such as the Yom Kippur War, when there was no prior coordination.

[Shlonsky] And nevertheless it joined that war.

[Shomron] Yes. Two Iraqi divisions participated in that war; therefore we are planning with this fact in mind. I must say that these changes, which are extremely significant strategic changes, will require investments to find the answers to the surface-to-surface missiles, among other things.

[Shlonsky] This means an increased defense budget.

[Shomron] I am referring to greater investments. I do not want to use the television studio to raise the budgetary issue. I have other forums for raising this issue.

[Lis] At one stage of the war, Khomeyni claimed that his war with Iraq is his way toward freeing Jerusalem. He failed in his war with Iraq. Do you think that Khomeyni will now lead his army through Lebanon to free Jerusalem?

[Shomron] It is very difficult to say. I think that the factor that ultimately defeated Iran was the embargo. It could not obtain weapons, ammunition, and spare parts; it could simply not continue fighting. The question is whether it will not evince openness toward the Western world in order to strengthen itself, because only the West can rehabilitate it. If it does evince such openness, this will apparently be at the expense of the religious fanaticism—it will have no choice. It is therefore very difficult to say, and I do not want to hazard a guess.

[Shlonsky] Do you share the assessment that we lost something in the last 8 years by not trying to approach Iraq or was this a hopeless prospect from the beginning, meaning that we were right to favor the Iranian side which has traditionally—except for the last few years—been close to us.

[Shomron] This is a hypothetical question and I do not want to answer it. [passage omitted]

Cairo-Amman Bank Ordered To Stop Payments

TA1008072788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Nabulus—Jordan has ordered the Cairo-Amman Bank in Nabulus to immediately stop monthly payments to Palestinian civil servants and has frozen accounts for development projects. But other business at the bank is as usual and a new branch will open next week in Janin, a senior bank official told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

The orders from Amman follow Jordan's decision to stop paying salaries to its employees and cancel its five year development plan for the West Bank in moves to disengage itself from the area.

The bank official said an order was received Monday to stop paying salaries to civil service employees, but fired workers who have yet to receive wages for June and July had sent telegrams to Amman. A Jordanian announcement said the employees would be dismissed as of 16 August.

Jordan has also frozen funds in the bank earmarked for Jordan's five-year development plan, halting projects in progress. Officials of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration are seeking other means of completing the work, including contributions from abroad.

The bank official said preparations were underway to open a new bank branch in Janin next week. The other branches of the bank, whose headquarters are in Amman, operate in Ramallah and Hebron. The main West Bank branch in Nabulus was opened two years ago and is under Jordanian and Israeli supervision.

In other developments, the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration has cancelled requirements that West Bank residents show proof of payment of taxes before they can obtain permits to travel to Jordan. The requirements were imposed to block an attempted tax revolt during the uprising, but were lifted in an effort to ease passage to Jordan in the aftermath of Husayn's moves to sever ties with the West Bank.

Crossing hours at the Allenby Bridge have also been extended to accommodate a growing stream of Palestinians who are travelling to Jordan to visit relatives and look after personal affairs in expectation of possible travel and property-holding restrictions by Jordan.

In another move, apparently linked to the Jordanian measures, the Civil Administration plans to reduce the number of Palestinian employees fired as part of budget cuts forced by a falloff in tax revenue during the uprising. About 750 employees will be dismissed, instead of 1,500. Defence sources said the moves were unconnected to the Jordanian steps.

Palestinians in contact with the Civil Administration say it does not seem to have formulated an overall policy yet in response to Husayn's moves, and is adopting a "wait and see" attitude. Administration sources say the Jordanian steps are still being studied.

The head of the administration, Brigadier General Shay Erez, yesterday visited the Ramallah Government Hospital and met with its director, Dr. 'Isa Salti, to disucss the effects of the Jordanian moves on the hospital. Some $150,000 were earmarked for the hospital under Jordan's development plan.

Policy on Palestinians Viewed as 'Clumsy'

TA1008183288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Aug 88 p 9

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Fumble at the Top"]

[Text] The Palestinian independence document found in the Palestinian Research Institute headed by Faysal al-Husayni helped expose the Israeli leadership's clumsy attitude to matters concerning the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. Although the document will not bring the establishment of a Palestinian state any closer, it helped expose the impotence of thinking at the top.

The document again revealed the fact that for quite some time the Palestinian side, and to some extent also the Jordanian side, has been the initiator while we were left behind. Israel only reacted to the other side's steps, whether Jordanian or Palestinian. They take the initiative in stone throwing, the uprising, in influencing the international media, in Husayn's announcement of disengagement from the West Bank, in publishing the document known as the announcement by PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif, and in the Palestinian independence document. We, with our image of the big and strong entity, are running behind, clumsy and awkward. We only react and deny. We are still better at using force, but we have discovered the disadvantages of power. Hence the great confusion.

In my opinion, the importance of this document lies not in the Palestinian wish to set up a state or pull the trick of proclaming independence, but first and foremost in that it indicates the beginning of a tendency in the territories to tell the PLO leadership abroad that the local leaders have their own interests, that they deserve half of the leading roles, and that since they are conducting the struggle from inside, they should be taken into consideration. They are the PLO as well; they are willing to acknowledge the primacy of the organization's leader, but they are a PLO inside, with local interests.

That is why the PLO abroad is also somewhat confused by the publication of the document. The PLO abroad cannot object to the demand that a Palestinian state be established, but it does not want someone inside to dictate its moves to it and demand half the spoils.

Would it not be wiser for us to cultivate this dispute between the two parts of the PLO? We have always claimed that local leaders are not brave enough to act on their own. Now that they seem to do just that, we are stepping back. It is true that the proposition included in the independence document, which was probably directed at the extremist PLO leaders abroad also, is unacceptable to us, but why not deepen the dispute between the PLO on the outside and the PLO inside, if indeed the two do have conflicting interests? Those who favor a dialogue with the local leadership ought to be interested in such a step. On the other hand, even those who are not should take advantage of the situation. At

present, neither those who claim to favor such negotiations nor those who reject them have been showing such an inclination. That is because of our clumsy attitude.

We have always claimed that the Palestinian side is unable to convert its violence into political discussions. Indeed, this has been the major fault of the PLO as well as that of the preceding Palestinian leaders. Despite the fact that Al-Husayni's document is unacceptable to many of those who support a solution that would lead to the foundation of a Palestinian state, the fact that this is an attempt to turn the uprising's achievements into a path to discussions cannot be ignored. Israel's top echelon is indifferent to that because one stream of our leadership is not interested in any discussions, while the other still entertains the illusion that Husayn's Jordanian Army will one day replace the IDF in the territories and do the job of controlling the local inhabitants for us.

Instead of dealing with essential issues, we were busy finding out who was the source of the leak. Those who leaked yesterday's news are mad at those who leaked today's news. There will always be those journalists who will be angry at the fact that the people responsible for the leaks ignore them. I personally do not see any substantial difference between leaking the Al-Husayni document and the organized leaks of Rabin's meetings with pro-PLO Palestinian leaders and fundamentalists from the territories.

Even after Husayn's announcement of disengagement from the territories, word of another of Rabin's meetings was leaked. But let us go back to the matter of the document itself. Whoever thought that such a document could have been kept a secret does not know what he is talking about. The Palestinians wanted it leaked, in a different manner of course, and details of it reached Israeli and foreign correspondents a few days before it was published. Censorship and "off the record" tricks would not have helped.

The reaction of the two major parties and their ministers to the Al-Husayni document was very interesting. The Likud's simplistic attitude was expressed by the prime minister. Shamir believes that the Palestinians' desire for what Israel already has, namely a state of their own, is an insane idea. We are allowed to entertain wishes of having Janin and Nabulus, but if any Palestinian dares to talk of the 1947 partition borders it is a crime. History has a different direction: Eventually Nabulus will not be ours and the Palestinians will have to give up the 1947 borders.

The Alignment's attitude was pathetic. The ministers who attacked the "leak" were Yitzhaq Rabin and 'Ezer Weizman, later to be joined by Shim'on Peres. Their reactions show confusion. First Husayn pulled the Jordanian option from under their feet. Now they base their hopes on the expectation that Husayn's disengagement trick would scare the Palestinians and bring them back to him. The independence document scared the ministers themselves because they do not have an honest answer for the Palestinians, not even for the local leaders. Their talk of hope that the uprising would breed a new Palestinian leadership is only lip service.

Those who are willing to talk to leaders with a PLO tint do not dare say so because they fear the electorate's response. The Alignment ministers' attitude was geared exclusively to electioneering. The fear that the Likud might highlight the "extremist" details of the document for its own election campaign needs eventually tipped the scale.

Foreign Minister Leads Arab Delegation to France
JN1008120188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman for Paris today to lead the delegation of the seven-member Arab committee charged with meeting the French foreign minister within the framework of the committee to follow up the developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

Al-Masri and the accompanying delegation which comprises the Tunisian foreign minister and the Arab League secretary general are expected to visit the British capital to meet with the British foreign minister for the same purpose at a later date.

This move comes within the framework of Arab efforts aimed at explaining the Arab and Iraqi stand toward ongoing efforts to achieve peace in the Arabian Gulf.

King Husayn Calls End of War 'Genuine Success'
JN1008093888 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] His majesty the king has congratulated Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the Armed Forces, and the people of Iraq for successfully defending the eastern borders of the Arab world. In a statement to Baghdad television last night, his majesty expressed hope that this will be the end to the 8-year old war.

His majesty also said that the Iraqi victory represented a genuine success in defending Arab lands and unity. His majesty added that Iraq, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, restored confidence to the Arab world through its victorious war with Iran. His majesty concluded his statement by expressing hope for a new unified and strong Arab world.

UN Office Pledges $1,049 Million in Technical Aid
JN0408122288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4-5 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed two agreements with the Jordanian government under which it will offer the country a total of $1,049 million in technical assistance to help it diversify and develop its exports and develop Jordan's employment and manpower programmes.

The agreement aims to develop the Jordanian commercial centres in different countries enabling it to offer better consultancy services to Jordanian exporters.

The agreement also provides for helping Jordan lay a permanent strategy to develop its industrial and agricultural exports by paving the way for investments in the private and public sectors.

It is hoped that the project will improve the quality of goods and the process of marketing them in Arab countries, Asia and Western Europe.

The UNDP will provide $650,000 to cover the cost of hiring experts in this field and establishing training programmes for Jordanians. The government will provide offices, local officials and transport facilities.

The second agreement, on developing human resources, aims to boost Jordan's economy by creating jobs.

Under this project, the UNDP will provide experts and technicians to help the country create a balance in the labour market and lay down an integrated data system, to monitor and control the local labour market.

The UNDP will contribute a total of $339,000 to cover the overall expenses of the local and international specialists. The government will provide $200,000 in the form of facilities, while the International Labour Organization (ILO) will supervise the project's implementation.

The two agrements were signed by Minister of Planning Tahir Kan'an and UNDP representative in Jordan 'Ali 'Atiqah.

Labor Ministry Official on Unemployment Figures
JN0608122088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] (J.T.)—By the end of the current 1986-1990 five-year development plan, the number of job seekers in the Kingdom is expected to reach 67,000 according to the Ministry of Labour's Secretary General Salah al-Khasawinah.

Addressing a public meeting on problems in engineering, held at the Professional Association complex Thursday, al-Khasawinah said many of the unemployed of the future, like today, will be university educated, including engineers whose numbers are now increasing.

In reviewing the Jordanian labour market, Al-Khasawinah said the Ministry of Labour's figures indicate the presence of 150,000 non-Jordanian workers employed in the Kingdom, while 350,000 Jordanians are employed in Arab countries especially the Gulf states.

There is increasing demand for people to work in agriculture and service sectors, which are mostly filled by non-Jordanians, Al-Khasawinah noted.

He said by the end of the five-year plan there will be more demand for maintenance technicians and those skilled in advanced technology, rather than traditional graduates of engineering schools.

Dr Ahmad 'Atwan, a member of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) council, told the meeting that university graduates far exceed the number of graduates from

polytechnic and community colleges in Jordan, and "the Kingdom therefore continues to face a shortage in the number of assistant engineers and others who graduate from polytechnic schools."

'Atwan said that half of the country's 20,000 engineers are specialised in civil work while the rest are specialised in mechanical, electrical and other fields.

He expressed the opinion that the coming years will witness increasing demand for technicians to be employed in maintenance and high-tech fields.

President Swears-In New Minister of Supply

JN0808114088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Salam Kan'an minister of supply, was sworn in by His Majesty King Husayn this morning. Present at the swearing-in ceremonies were His Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty's personal representative, the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, the court minister, and his highness the chief chamberlain.

Dr Kan'an was outside the country when he was named by royal decree last Saturday as minister of supply.

Tourism Minister Trying To Foil Jerusalem Meeting

JN0308205688 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 88

[Text] Amman—Tourism Minister Zuhayr al-'Ajluni has stated that the ministry is exerting intensive efforts to abort current contacts seeking to hold a meeting of the British tourist agents society in Jerusalem late this year.

He said that he is following with great interest the steps the Arab Ambassadors Council, the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, and the Jordanian Embassy in London are taking to convince members of the society not to accept the invitation to participate in this meeting. He said that he has contacts with travel and tourist agencies which do business with Jordan who will prevent charter trips usually organized for this meeting.

The minister emphasized the gravity of this decision. He said that this constitutes a sanctioning of the Israeli policy of expansion and an insult to the Arab and Islamic countries. He said: It also harms trade relations, in addition to the fact that it takes place during the blessed uprising of the Palestinian people.

The minister added that the choice of Jerusalem as the venue for such a meeting rewards the Zionist occupation, not to mention that it conflicts with the stands, norms, and resolutions adopted by international and regional organizations on the status of Jerusalem—which Israel has obnoxiously exploited in the slogans and programs it prepared to promote the meeting in the holy city.

The minister of tourism vehemently denied Israeli media reports last week containing fabricated and harmful claims that several Jordanian travel and tourist agents are preparing tourist trips to participate in this meeting. He added that these reports are malicious and slanderous and are meant to harm Jordan and discredit the Jordanian travel agent.

The minister said that Jordan welcomes the convocation of this meeting in any Arab capital instead of Jerusalem. He added that Jordan will expeditiously work to clarify the political step that is entailed from the recognition of Jerusalem through this touristic opportunity and will also expose the venomous objectives and intentions of Israel as well as its attempt to carry out political and touristic sabotage.

Government Official Named to DAR AL-SHA'B Board

JN0208144188 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Amman, Petra-JNA—The Council of Ministers decided to appoint 'Isam 'Aridah as the government's representative on the board of directors of DAR AL-SHA'B press and publishing company.

Paper Praises Uprising, Criticizes U.S. Plans

JN1008123888 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Aug 88 p 22

[Article: "The Uprising and the Imaginary Conspiratorial Plots"; by Rakan al-Majali]

[Text] Yesterday marks the beginning of the 9th month of the popular uprising movement in the occupied Arab territories. The citizens there have staged a comprehensive strike in response to the call of the uprising's leadership. Yesterday was characterized by violent confrontations, which indicate that the enemy has begun to lose its nerve. Yesterday was the day of martyrs and wounded.

What is important is that the popular uprising movement's continuation and momentum spring from its internal energy and from the Palestinian people's firm belief that the confrontation battle means the elimination of the occupation. We should realize that the Zionist enemy has failed to quell the uprising and that hysteria will not help it confront the popular will. Therefore, any attempt to strike the uprising by any internal party has become impossible. As a result, the U.S. moves represented by the tours of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the current move of Richard Murphy are aimed at aborting and destroying the uprising.

The United States is trying to market false solutions and is launching moves to save the Zionist entity. As is known, the United States used all its weight during the past wars, including the October war, to support the Zionist enemy. It also supported and saved that entity

during the conventional wars. But regarding the uprising, there is no hope for the enemy except through political action. Hence, the U.S. initiative and moves are political tactics aimed at saving the Zionist entity.

There is no doubt that all the deviationist political proposals were made by the United States. The so-called Bassam Abu Sharif document is part of the U.S. plan to complete the second framework of Camp David concerning the Palestinian cause. Similarly, the document, issued by the Arab studies center in Jerusalem and spread by the Zionist media over the last 2 days, is also a call for a unilateral solution. It is aimed at completing the current roles of Shultz and Murphy, and is in harmony with some Israeli proposals aimed at containing the uprising movement and achieving results similar to those produced by the glorious October war.

The U.S.-Zionist plot against the Palestine question is aimed at liquidating it. The uprising came and reversed all calculations. Therefore, the current plots are aimed at aborting the uprising by making false and wicked proposals. But the uprising will continue and our nation will achieve victory and will never fall into the trap of plots again.

AL-DUSTUR Hails Iraq's 'Harvest' Over Iran

JN1008115488 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Aug 88 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Best of Harvests"]

[Text] After 8 years of sacrifice and legendary steadfastness, the Gulf war has ended and fraternal Iraq has reaped the best of harvests as the price for its bravery and its glorious defense of its national and pan-Arab soil—a harvest represented by total victory, strong position, and unprecedented glory among peoples and nations.

Now is the time for the brave Iraqis to chant peace and victory slogans and to express joy as their historic achievement despite the huge and priceless sacrifices and losses. The strong and total peace they have achieved undoubtedly equals that great sacrifice.

While we share with our Iraqi brothers their overwhelming joy and congratulate our glorious brothers on this victory and peace for which they have waited for years, we hope that this will be a prelude to a new phase in the life of the Arab Gulf area and a beginning of long-standing and firm security, peace, progress, and stability for all the people of the region.

Undoubtedly, the entire Arab nation is looking toward Iraq, which has emerged from this prolonged and bloody war stronger in the face of crises, in order to take its appropriate position in the pan-Arab action and play its role in the Arab east, which suffered much from Iraq's preoccupation with repulsing the Iranian offensive from the Arab nation's eastern flank.

As we take pride in the rare Iraqi heroic epic and press the hands of every Iraqi brother who participated in making this peace and this total victory, we have no doubt that what has been achieved is due to the heroism of Iraq—leadership, army, and people—and to cohesion inside and outside Iraq. It was not due to mediations and deals, which are useless in the age of the strong and strength.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Views PLO 'Responsibilities'

JN0608104988 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Aug 88 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Jordanian Measures To Serve Palestinian Representation"]

[Text] We do not want the recent Jordanian decisions and measures to be described as being issued without consultation with or the knowledge of the PLO. He who says such a thing proves that he has been absent from the deliberations which have taken place at Arab summits, the Arab League and its various bodies, and the bilateral meetings between Jordan and the PLO.

Also, we do not want any Arab or Palestinian quarter to interpret the recent Jordanian stand in a manner that will serve the Zionist propaganda apparatus and its satellites.

For that purpose, we do not want anybody to misunderstand our decisions and measures which came as a sincere, honest, and accurate response to the Arab summit resolutions which affirmed that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

These decisions and measures, as well as many others, have been an urgent demand by the PLO and Arab leaderships since the 1974 Rabat summit until the 1988 Algiers emergency summit.

It is the wish of Jordan to place before the PLO its full responsibilities, in order to become the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people before the entire world and their only delegate at international forums.

Thus, the PLO should deal with the results of the Jordanian decisions and measures with a higher sense of responsibility in order not to affect negatively the Palestinian people and their cause and uprising.

The PLO has to prove that it is worthy of shouldering these heavy responsibilities before the rebellious Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Jordanian decisions and measures did not come from a vacuum. Jordan did not suffer the pains of making these decisions and measures to meet its own desire, as this is excluded from our thinking and conception. It is the Arab and PLO wish that prompted us to

make our decision and to endure its pain in order to enable the PLO to bear the responsibilities we which have carried together for the past 40 years.

We do not accept any interpretation for our move other than the explanation and interpretation which we have presented. We are ready to further explain our move for those who wish. Our measures and decisions should not be understood outside the framework of what we said and reiterated. We have made our decision voluntarily before the insistence of the Arab leaders and the PLO.

Any intrepretation contrary to this understanding clearly exposes the ill intentions of those who propagate them. We know the dimensions and aims of these interpretations and can refute them anytime.

Despite ongoing developments in the Jordanian and Palestinian arenas, the future Jordanian-Palestinian relations will continue as did in the past—an example for the brotherly relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, relations that are stronger than all that may face their joint struggle.

Undoubtedly, we will not hesitate to inform all Arab and Palestinian brothers of Jordan's steps to highlight Palestinian representation as well as of what will be adopted later for the same objective. Within this framework came King Husayn's speech at the Algiers summit as well as his majesty's past moves and thus his future moves. Within this framework also came his majesty's contacts with the leaders of Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and other Arab countries. His majesty's messages to many Arab and international quarters also have the same purpose and objective, which is keeping the brothers in the picture regarding the Jordanian measures which respond to their orientation and wish. The messages sent to international quarters are aimed at entrenching the Jordanian stand on supporting the Palestinian people's representation and guaranteeing the continuation of the material and moral support for the struggling Palestinian people by various world states and forums.

Briefs

New Ambassadorial Appointments

The Council of Ministers decided to appoint Dr Nasir al-Bataynah as Jordan's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Saudi Arabia; Husayn Hammami, as ambassador to the United States; 'Awwad al-Khalidi, as ambassador to France; and Shihab al-Din Mahdi, as ambassador to the Foreign Ministry. [Text] [*JN0408140088 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0905 GMT 2 aug 88*]

Outgoing Egyptian Ambassador

Amman—Hamdi al-Tabba', minister of industry, trade, and supplies, received in his office yesterday Ihab Wahbah, Egyptian ambasador in Amman, who bade him farewell on ending his tenure in Jordan. [Excerpt] [*JN0508174488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Aug 88 p 2*]

New Ambassador Appointments

Amman—The Cabinet has made the following ambassadorial appointments: Husayn Hamami to Washington; Nabih al-Nimr to Cairo; Shihab Madi to Australia; Sulayman al-Dujani to India; Samir Khalaf to Greece; 'Awwad al-Khalidi to Paris; and Nasir al-Batayinah to Saudi Arabia. Nayif al-Hadid was nominated ambassador in Damascus. Sultan Lutfi, Qasim Ghazawi, and Faysal al-Humud will be promoted to ambassadorial level. Shahir Bak, Her majesty Queen Nur's office director, has been appointed chief of protocol in the Foreign Ministry. [Summary] [*JN0908213888 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 aug 88 p 1*]

Oil Production, Prospects

The total production of oil from Wells 1,2, and 4 in the Hamzah oil field in Jordan last year totalled 146,809 barrels. This oil was transported to the Jordanian petroleum refinery company. A report says tests have proved the existence of gas in Well 3. A program for oil production has been prepared, and several wells dug. [Summary] [*JN1008094288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88*]

Israel Reinforces Border Strip Positions

NC1009152888 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports received from the occupied border strip today, the occupation forces have brought in large military reinforcements and deployed them all across the strip, particularly on the axes of Bint Jubayl, Marj 'Uyun, Jazzin, and the eastern sector.

It is reported that a convoy of tracked vehicles entered the strip from occupied Palestine via the iron gate in Metulla, and headed to the eastern sector and Jazzin. The convoy is believed to have comprised 50 tracked vehicles, several jeeps, and 500 Zionist soldiers.

According to security sources in the occupied border strip, Zionists have strengthened their positions with armored vehicles. This is particularly true in Al-Shurayfah, Ibil al-Saqy, Qasr al-Khalil, the 'Ayn Qinya hills, and Al-Ahmadiyah.

'Unusual Movements' Continue

NC1108083588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] National resistance fighters last night detonated an explosive device as an agent Lahd militia patrol was passing on the Blida-'Aytarun road in the South. A vehicle was damaged and set on fire and those in it were hit.

In another development, people arriving from the occupied border strip have stated that unusual Israeli movements continued in the occupied areas yesterday, while the militias continued their wide-scale search operations along the Al-Litani River, in Wadi al-Saluqi, and at the Hula crossing.

Israeli artillery also shelled the outskirts of western Al-Biqa', and scores of flares were fired over the area between Bint Jubayl and Mount Hermon.

Al-Huss Receives Iraqi President's Message

NC1009165188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Counselor Jean Alfa, director of Arab affairs at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, received a message today from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The message was delivered by Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Sabbar al-Hudaythi.

Mexico, Tunisia To Reopen Beirut Embassies

NC1108062788 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The Bustrus Palace [Foreign Ministry] has been informed that the Mexican Government has decided to appoint a new ambassador to Beirut in preparation for reopening the Mexican Embassy.

Meanwhile, the Australian Government has advised its nationals not to travel to Lebanon unless it is essential.

It also advised Australians residing in Lebanon to leave unless it is extremely essential for them to stay, because Lebanon is a country in distress.

The Greek Government has instructed all Greek Embassies abroad to refuse entry visas to any Lebanese unless he is in possession of a letter of identification from the Lebanese Embassy in the country in which he has applied for a visa, to confirm that his passport is not forged.

Foreign Ministry sources have stated that Tunisia has decided to reopen its embassy in Lebanon. The embassy has been closed since 1985.

Sa'id ibn Mustafa, the current Tunisian ambassador to Jordan, will be nonresident ambassador to Beirut.

Syrian Soldier Killed in Clash with Hizballah

NC1008185488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] A member of the Syrian occupation forces was killed in a clash between a Syrian unit and Hizballah elements in the central telephone exchange area in the southern suburb this evening.

Following the clash, the Syrians carried out indiscriminate raids and arrested numerous people, including some women.

Soldier Killed by Kurds

NC1108055588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] According to security sources in West Beirut, a Syrian soldier was killed in the Zuqaq al-Balat area last night following a dispute between Kurdish gunmen and Syrian soldiers that led to an exchange of fire and stabbings.

The Syrian soldier received several stab wounds and was taken to the American University Hospital, where he died.

It has been reported that Syrian forces stormed the area and arrested the Kurdish gunmen.

Organization Claims Attack on 2 Syrian Vehicles

NC1108104788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi forces of the 9 February Organization have claimed responsibility for detonating an explosive charge targeted against a position held jointly by the Syrian intelligence and Syrian Ba'th party in the Ra's al-Nab' area at 0300 today.

Two military vehicles of the Syrian intelligence were damaged.

Resistance Reports Attacks on Enemy Patrols
NC1108064288 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced that its fighters attacked an enemy patrol in the Al-Tayyibah area 2 days ago, using machineguns and rockets. Ten enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

The Islamic Resistance has also declared that a commando group detonated an explosive device as an enemy tank and a troop carrier were passing on Rshaf road last night. The two vehicles were destroyed and those in them killed or wounded.

'Anti-Israeli Gunmen' Attack SLA Patrol, Kill 1
NC1108104388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] South Lebanese Army [SLA] radio Voice of Hope reports that anti-Israeli gunmen have attacked an SLA patrol in the Marj 'Uyun area with rockets and machineguns, killing one of its members.

Meanwhile, fundamentalist sources say that one of their positions in Birkat Jabbur, outside the security belt, has been shelled by SLA positions in Marj 'Uyun.

Al-Asad Receives Libyan Envoy, Message
JN0908191488 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libya's representative to the Arab League, at 1930 today. The Libyan official handed President al-Asad a message from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the director of the Libyan People's Bureau in Damascus.

Al-Zu'bi Addresses Camp Students on 'Crazy War'
JN0708131688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi asserted that Syria has stood and continues to stand firmly against hostile schemes out of its pan-Arab responsibilities and in defense of the Arabs' central cause. Al-Zu'bi added that Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad shoulders the burdens of the pan-Arab struggle and endeavors to achieve strategic parity with the Zionist enemy on the path of victory and liberation. In a meeting with students of the Al-Sharif al-Idris camp for university training, the prime minister reviewed attempts by imperialism and Zionism to dominate our Arab region and abort the struggle of the Arab liberation movement by creating fabricated conflicts meant to exhaust the Arab nation's capabilties and resources on the one hand and turn the Arab-Zionist conflict into a marginal dispute on the other.

Al-Zu'bi added: These attempts were manifested by Saddam Husayn's initiation of his crazy war against the Islamic revolution in Iran. This war has exhausted the human and material resources of both Iraq and Iran. It has also prevented the exploitation of these resources in our conflict with the Zionist enemy and in regaining the usurped Arab rights. Al-Zu'bi pointed out that our stand in Syria condemned this war as soon as it began because it only serves both the enemies of Arabs and imperialist and Zionist interests. By initiating this war, Saddam Husayn rendered a service to the Arab nation's enemies, inflicted grave damage on Iraq's resources, and exhausted our Arab people in Iraq by making them shoulder the human and material burdens of this war. The prime minister explained the suspect attempts being made by the 'Arafatist clique to deviate the Palestinian revolution, to throw itself into the arms of imperialism and Zionism, and to jump on the Camp David bandwagon as part of a conspiratorial role to liquidate the Palestine question. Al-Zu'bi stressed Syria's support for fraternal Lebanon to achieve its security and stability and realize its national unity in order to liberate the occupied Lebanese territory. He emphasized Syria's support for the Lebanese national resistance in its struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Afterward, the prime minister discussed the government's plan of action to bolster and promote the economic, social, and development sectors. He pointed to the positive results achieved in the fields of agriculture, industry, and exploration of natural resources, particularly in the areas of oil, gas, and other minerals. Al-Zu'bi stressed the strength of our national economy as well as the great Syrian resources and capabilities which should be optimally exploited to promote and entrench the economy and realize comprehensive development in all walks of life. The prime minister also affirmed the government's care for education and scientific research and stressed the implementation of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad's instructions in this regard. He also pointed to the gains our students have realized, stressing the need for increasing and promoting the scientific capabilities of universities in order to realize the slogan of linking the universities to the community.

Concluding his speech, the prime minister asserted that Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad resolutely stands against the hostile schemes. Syria honestly and honorably defends the Arab nation's rights and dignity, he added.

Voice of Iraq Calls for Saddam's Overthrow
JN0808203288 Damascus Voice of Iraq in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers in Iraq: Finally, the unjust war is drawing to a close after 8 years of destruction, damage, and great loss in life and property. International efforts are also getting closer to building—in the land of tragic battles—a road that will lead to just, honorable, and lasting peace. Yet, the same old question which puts Baghdad's rulers before their inevitable destination will grow. Why was this war inflamed? Why did the Iraqi people pay such a dear price? What did we reap from this reckless adventure on which the executioner Saddam Husayn embarked on on behalf of his masters and his regime's guardians who are hiding behind [word indistinct]. This war's objectives were clear enough from the 1st day it began. The real objectives for which this war was designed on the regional level are also clear. Yet, these objectives are more clear nowadays. Our country is emerging from this war tired, wounded, and burdened with debts that can only be repaid after many years. The bills of martyrs and victims are all over the country. When one gazes at this miserable portrait of our people and country caused by the war, then, undoubtedly, one will have one feeling: Punishment must be swift and decisive for all those who engineered the crime and participated in it.

When the crime is clear and its stage is full of irrefutable proof, then just punishment is requested at the earliest time. Actually, this is what the executioner Saddam Husayn and his regime fear. It is illogical for anyone to think that the army, whose dignity was injured and

whose sons were perfidiously assassinated and which was forced to indulge in the pool of blood, can possibly remain silent over this crime or turn its back on its sacred mission, which demonstrates the real meaning of nationalism and dignity. By this we mean its contribution, hand in hand with the people, to the disposing of the rule of this executioner, his regime, and his designs and plots. The policy that led to war is still the same. The regime that started the fire of this tragedy is still the same. The regime has not changed, nor has its policy. Are we then exaggerating if we say that the regime's continued existence means only the continued existence of dangers and catastrophies that threaten Iraq—land and people.

Those who throw our people and country into the perdition of war will not hesitate from throwing them again into new adventures, which may be more tragic and dreadful. Undoubtedly, to turn the pages of this black war and close its tragic file should mean ending the continued rule of the tyrants and foiling their reckless policies. The time has come to settle scores. The time has come for the masses' national and popular mammoth resurrection to make the adventurers and executioners pay dearly for their adventures. This war has ended now as an ill-omened adventure. But the people's war against the executioner is only now starting. If people are to win their battle against the executioners of their freedom, all energies and resources must be gathered to transform the slogan of disposing of the regime into a slogan that will unite the whole of Iraq within one framework and in one confrontation line against the murderers, the executioners, and those who brought all these pains and catastrophies. The whole nation is waiting to hear the voice of freedom from Baghdad.

Paper Assails Government-in-Exile Idea

JN0708093488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Aug 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Immunizing the Uprising is a Revolutionary Demand," AL-THAWRAH says: The deviationist 'Arafatist clique has continued to make concessions to the Zionist enemy and to proceed with polishing the image of the Palestinian right which has gone to extremes to render the 'Arafatist clique a party acceptable to the Americans and Israelis at the direct negotiations table. After the publication of the document of humiliation and submission signed by Abu Sharif and 'Arafat and the exchange of messages and consultations with the enemy leaders through intermediaries and directly, the advocates of the course of deviation and forfeiture have launched a new-old idea about making preparations for the formation of a government-in-exile.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This idea was originally related to the name of the entombed Al-Sadat who launched it within the framework of autonomy talks. The deviationist 'Arafatist course is attempting to revive this idea, especially at this time in a bid to take credit for the valiant uprising being staged in the occupied homeland in the Palestinian homeland, highlight its position in it, and fill the vacuum in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and consequently to atttempt to portray the deviationist Palestinian right as if it were holding valuable cards which it can use as bargaining chips at the U.S.-Israeli negotiating tables. Notwithstanding the dangers posed by the launching of this step to the valiant uprising which has continued to be targeted by all the U.S.-Israeli moves which seek to terminate, abort, and circumvent it, the uprising—the revolution—has no relation whatsoever to all these suspect moves. These moves are no more than a knife that stabs it in the back, considering that the moves launched and maintained by the 'Arafatist clique have constituted a retreat from all the values of the nationalist and pan-Arab struggle and also after it has provided indisputable evidence of this deviationist course's relinquishment of the armed struggle, the Palestinian National Charter, and the resolutions adopted by the successive PNC sessions.

The newspaper continues: The thing that this deviationist course must understand is that it will never be an acceptable negotiating partner and will achieve nothing no matter how many concessions and bargaining cards it offers to improve its negotiating status. This is simply because the road of offering concessions and demonstrating submission leads to nothing other than the loss of dignity. Furthermore, capitulation can never help restore the territory and regain rights. The territory and rights can never be restored or regained except through advocation of armed struggle and the demonstration of steadfastness, the field in which the uprising—the revolution—is depicting creative horizons displaying a full-fledged revolutionary mass fury that has the depth and strength to achieve the masses' objectives of victory, liberation, and the restoration of territory, rights, and holy places.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: The beautification of the government-in-exile step by the deviationist clique on the pretext that it is prompted by a desire to fill the vacuum in the West Bank can never be anything other than a frail deception, as the uprising—the revolution—finds its support in the steadfastness being displayed by the masses. Besides, this uprising is stronger and bigger than all frameworks. Furthermore, it has no relationship with any framework, no matter how much this framework is carefully beautified and embellished.

Commentary Views Upcoming Elections in Lebanon

JN0608151288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Fraternal Lebanon faces a very important constitutional election for a new president for the Republic. The subject of elections overpowers all

political activity in or about Lebanon. This is very natural, considering the many factors and the outlets and effects this election will have on the future and present of Lebanon. It is indisputable that the presidency in Lebanon represents the unity of Lebanon and can have a very active role in returning Lebanon to its unity, good condition, and role, and to the effectiveness of its institutions on the basis of national concord and the national solution to the internal crisis which has been going on for the past decade and a quarter.

Because the Lebanese presidency has such an important and national role, it is impossible that this presidency be sectarian and factional no matter what the color or belief of the president. The presidency represents all of Lebanon and not an individual, group, organization, party, sector, or religion. This presidency will not be able to carry out its required and assumed duties, especially after the years of suffocation and fighting, unless it is for the whole of Lebanon and the Lebanese and unless all the Lebanese have the right to choose their own president, specify his characteristics, and accept or refuse the programs, policies, and line of the candidates.

He who cares for the future, existence, and unity of Lebanon will inevitably have to consider the presidential elections as a chance to accept the facts that have sprung and imposed themselves after 13 years of fighting and disputes and respect the rights of the Lebanese in choosing their president and determining the fate of their country. Those who try to limit the presidency to a specific faction or a total group and give this group, which in the best of situations is a minority, a full dictatorship in choosing candidates and placing bans on names, are showing on the one hand a desire to control, dominate, and oppress others, and on the other hand, their far dimension of aborting the requirements of national concord and solving the crisis. Nay, they insist on working against the unified existence of Lebanon and against all well-meaning efforts directed at unifying Lebanon and encouraging cohabitation based on equality and justice.

It is true that the general international and regional atmosphere provides the appropriate conditions in all regions to move international detente forward, including calming the disturbed conditions and finding solutions to the regional crises and issues. However, this does not at all mean that revengeful, prejudiced, and tyrannical groups should be given the chance to exploit the situation to impose their conditions, opinions, and ambitions on others. It also does not mean that those demanding justice and fairness and those with legal rights should submit to the terrorism and threats of those using forceful language and the fait accompli imposed through force.

Detente in the international atmosphere does not and should not mean that the Arabs should submit to Israel's aggression, terrorism, and use of force and accept its arbitrary conditions which conflict with justice and peace. The required detente in Lebanon does not mean that a minority should make the vast majority of Lebanese of all colors, sects, and beliefs submit to its will, dictatorship, and forceful threats. It also does not mean that the majority should renounce its right to demand the national charter and fraternal cohabitation on the basis of justice and equality and to make it the right of all Lebanese and not just a small authoritative group, which perhaps uses violence and force or exploits situations by applying unwritten tribal laws to nominate themselves to the presidency, to choose the nominee most suitable to be a patriotic Lebanese president who believes in the national concord. This president should also be capable of contributing to correcting the Lebanese situation and reforming the political order on the basis of national concord, equality, and justice. He should be a president for all Lebanese, not to one party excluding the other. He should be a president who gets his authority from inside Lebanon and the Lebanese, not from the other side of the border, from some focus of fanaticism, or some militia or other deviant from the state's plans who competes with this authority.

He in Lebanon errs who believes that he can depend on the will of others in achieving national concord, a national solution, and cohabitation on the basis of nationalism, euqality, and justice, so that he can impose his authority, control, and terrorism, on others, promote factionalism, and enrage the fire of the factors that led to the crisis which no one has been able to solve until now.

Briefs

Outgoing Hungarian, GDR Envoys

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received here sucessively today Zoltan Szephelyi and Wolfgang Grabowski, the ambassadors of Hungary and the GDR in Damascus, on the end of their term, in Syria. [Excerpt] [*JN0408163188 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1411 GMT 4 Aug 88*]

Afghanistan

'Rebels' Break Cordon, Enter Konduz City

BK1008173088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1720 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 10 (AFP)—Afghan rebels Wednesday broke an Army cordon and entered northern Konduz city, near the Soviet border, Radio Kabul said. The Afghan Government forces launched a counter-operation, the radio said. Thirty-five people had died, the broadcast monitored here said.

Observers said it was the first time Kabul had immediately acknowledged the guerrillas' entry into a strategic city.

Kabul Notes 'Disturbances'

LD1008173388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The BIA military section reports that during the past 2 days extremist elements have maintained pressure on areas in Konduz Province. Today the extremists penetrated a section of the city and carried out a series of disturbances and subversion.

Our compatriots are aware that the Soviet limited troop contingent recently withdrew from Konduz in accordance with the Geneva accords. The peaceloving people of Konduz believe that following the withdrawal of Soviet troops, those oppositionists who have been acting contrary to the people's security, under the pretext of the presence of Soviet troops, should end their subversive actions and come over to the side of the Islamic and humane policy of national reconciliation.

The extremists have no independent will and are therefore a tool in the hands of the Afghan people's enemies. They continue, as usual, to kill and plunder the noble, Muslim citizens under the pretext of holy war.

The report adds that the security forces have taken action in order to preserve order and calm, and to clear the areas surrounding the city of saboteurs and rebellious elements.

35 'Extremists' Killed

LD1008193488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The Armed Forces, with the cooperation of the inhabitants of Konduz Province yesterday killed 35 extremists. Some of the extremists' heavy and light weapons were destroyed along with several of their hideouts.

The Armed Forces, with the active participation of the inhabitants of Sarkani District, Konar Province, inflicted major losses on a group of war-mongering extremists who were trying to attack district villages the day before yesterday. A quantity of weapons and ammunition, including 100 surface-to-surface missiles, 1 recoilless rifle, and 1 ZK-1, were destroyed, as were several extremists' hideouts.

The Armed Forces killed a group of extremists belonging to the notorious Rabbani band, including the group's ringleader Laz Muhammad and seized their weapons and ammunition in an operation in Parvan Province.

IRNA: Mujahidin Capture Bamian City

LD1008183288 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Bamian, capital of the Afghan province of the same name, was captured by the Nasr organization and other mujahidin groups, disclosed a source affiliated to Afghan Muslim revolutionaries, here Wednesday.

In a talk with IRNA, the source said a group of the joint Soviet-Kabul regime forces were killed while several others were taken prisoner.

Afghan mujahidin of the Nasr organization had besieged Bamian in central Afghanistan, since the past two months.

Meanwhile, reports reaching here from Mashhad say a Soviet made MiG warplane and a helicopter belonging to the Kabul regime were missiled down in Qandak [place-name as received] region of the same province, on Aug. 4 and 6 by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

There is no report available on the fate of the pilots and crew of the downed copter and warplane.

Missile Attack Kills 4 in Laghman Province

LD1008193888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Criminal extremists embarked on a barbarous action last night, martyring and injuring a number of our compatriots in the city of Mehtarlam in Laghman Province.

At 2100, the criminals fired surface-to-surface missiles at Mehtarlam, martyring four of our compatriots, including women and children, and injuring eight other people. The injured were taken to hospital and given treatment.

Rebel Leader Asks Foreigners To Leave Kabul

PM1008090588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 88 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Mujahidin Alliance Leader Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "As Goodwill Move, We Will Release Two Prisoners and We Appeal to Foreigners To Stay Away From Kabul"]

[Excerpt] London—Afghan mujahidin alliance leader Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani has stated that the alliance yesterday morning reached an agreement with the International Red Cross [IRC] under which two Soviet POW's held by the mujahidin will be handed over to the IRC.

The Afghan leader, in a telephone conversation with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his headquarters in Peshawar, said that the mujahidin were taking this step as evidence of goodwill in response to the Soviet agreement to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Gaylani expects the two Soviet soldiers to be handed over to the IRC by the end of this week and expects that they will then decided whether they wish to return to the Soviet Union, remain in Pakistan, or emigrate to the West.

He added: Certain friendly states and IRC officials made valuable efforts to make this agreement possible.

The Afghan leader revealed that 17,000 Soviet troops were sent back to Kabul last Saturday and Sunday from Qandahar to prevent the fall of the capital to the mujahidin.

Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, who is also the leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, said that mujahidin attacks on the communist regime's centers and institutions in the capital are increasing significantly, inflicting more losses, with a demoralizing effect on the troops and commanders. He added that "the mujahidin do their best not to harm the civilians and foreigners living in Kabul."

He appealed to foreign nationals and diplomats in Afghanistan to be careful, to leave the country, and to pressure the communist government in Kabul and the Soviet leaders to speed up the withdrawal process, which has slowed down lately.

Gaylani revealed that yesterday the leaders of the seven Afghan organizations agreed not to attack the Soviet forces or positions during the withdrawal process provided these forces do not support government forces attempting to mount counterattacks against the mujahidin forces. [passage omitted]

68th Note on Violations Delivered to UNGOMAP

LD1008205088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The Foriegn Ministry office for liaison with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that this evening, 10 August, Afghanistan delivered its 68th note on Pakistan's violations of Article 2, Instrument I of the Geneva accords to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul. It requested that UNGOMAP investigate these infringements and inform the relevant Afghan authorities and the UN secretary general's representative about its findings.

Najibullah Cited on Conscription Policy

BK1108031588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The leader of the Kabul regime in Afghanistan, Dr Najibullah, has said that the situation is very bad and has asked the people not to be frightened. Addressing a gathering, he said that 10,000 youths had been conscripted into the armed forces. Earlier, a report said that boys as young as 13 or 14 were being drafted into the army to increase its numbers in view of heavy losses to the Afghan regime's forces from deaths or desertion.

In an ambush of the so-called operation group of the 98th Division at the battlefront, which was proceeding from Mazar-e Sharif to Konduz, the mujahidin killed at least eight soldiers of the Kabul regime, including two officers. The mujahidin attacked the frontier brigade in (?Miran) Province and seized four military vehicles and one wireless. They also killed 5 soldiers and injured 10 during the attack and destroyed a large number of arms and ammunition. The mujahidin carried out several operations around Kabul city, killing 16 soldiers of the Kabul regime and destroying two vehicles and one military building.

Najibullah Addresses Kabul Clergy 8 Aug

LD0908230188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Report with "excerpts" of speech by President Najibullah at a meeting with ulema, clergy, elders, and representatives of the people of Kabul city and province in Salam Khana Hall on 8 August]

[Text] [Begin Najibullah recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Very honorable and esteemed elders and clergy, today we have met to discuss the consolidation of the defense and security of Kabul, the political and administrative center of our country. There are major economic, cultural, and scientific facilities [words indistinct] of our society in Kabul. Kabul is the pride of the Afghan people. Kabul is the national pride of the Afghan people. Regarding the situation in Kabul, all the country, the world [words indistinct] includes the jirgah form of democracy, credible central power, parliamentarianism, and adherence to the sacred religion of Islam, our national traditions, and customs.

The restructured government organs consciously persist in pursuing the path of national reconciliation, and every effort is being made for the immediate cessation of fratricide. The Geneva agreements were the most important result of the national reconciliation policy. These agreements have greatly changed the general situation inside and outside the country.

The withdrawal of Soviet forces continues, which proves the serious readiness of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union to fulfill their commitments. Soviet forces have withdrawn from 25 provinces. This inspires

hope among all sections of society, including the internal and external opposition, of moving closer to peace than at any time in the past. Those who prefer to see Afghanistan as backward, plundered, and lacking in independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are warming their filthy hands by the flames of the undeclared war. They derive personal benefit from the sorrow of the Afghan people. The enemy is trying to dominate through armed aggression and to exterminate patriots. We are forced to concentrate on the defense of the country instead of making efforts for national reconciliation, restoration of the war damage, and peaceful construction.

Dear compatriots, I assure you that much work has been and is being carried out toward this end. Our Armed Forces are capable of giving a crushing response to the enemies of peace, agreement, unity, and solidarity, after the withdrawal of our brothers in arms, the Soviet troops. They are not mere words. You are aware of the epic heroism of the defenders of Qalat, Ghazni, Jalalabad, (Wargad), Bamian, Lowgar, and Spin Buldak, and other places.

Some 7,000 residents of Qalat repeated the epics of Maywand's heroes and the defenders of Spin Buldak. They resisted 10,000 extremists for 1 month. Some 300 women, and hundreds of children and men helped to defend the city. The children helped our forces and heroically fought in the cause of patriotism. The enemy beseiged the city with a firestorm. We calculate that there were 3 rockets were fired at every resident of the city, or 12-13 rockets for every household. Nevertheless, the residents defended themselves. On our side 44 people were martyred, but the enemy lost 700. I suggest that we learn from the epic heroism of our fathers and forefathers who made an impact in Qalat and other cities, and increase our bravery, valor, and gallantry. Let every city and village become a new Qalat, if the situation so warrants.

Our heroic forces have never retreated and never will. Despite the propaganda of the seven parties, the enemy could not occupy the centers of districts and cities. [end recording]

The esteemed president gave an account of the Afghan enemies' propaganda, adding:

[Begin recording] Dear friends, I call on you to expose provocative and false rumors and to quell any panic. The enemy is trying to create difficulties, such as disrupting the transportation of food, industrial products, fuel, and electricity supplies. I do not conceal the fact that there are shortages of commodities not only in rural areas but also in Kabul. In the circumstances of the undeclared war when (?60 percent) of total expenditure is for the defense of the homeland and revolution economic difficulties are inevitable. However, starvation has not yet threatened any city or province, and we are hoping that this will (?continue). It must be clear to all that the enemy cannot benefit from causing food shortages. There are reserves in Kabul for several months, and all rumors of a starving city under siege are unfounded and baseless.

Specific measures have been taken to consolidate the defense and security of Kabul city. A special 30-40 km zone around Kabul city is being completed. Various installations have been placed under self-defense [words indistinct]. All party members have completed general military training. Military companies of PDPA members have been formed. A special guard has also been created.

In this task we depend on the Afghans' freedom-loving and patriotic spirit and the people's serious determination to defend the cause of peace. In this task we seriously count on you elders and noble clergymen of Kabul city and province. [end recording]

After explaining the people's general duties under the country's exteemed Najibullah said:

[Begin recording] Noble ulema and clergymen, we address you today and ask you to raise your voice for the cause of peace in our misery-stricken land of Afghanistan. Ask the Muslims why they are killing each other; reconcile them. Almighty God and the grateful people of our homeland would never forget your peace-creating epic.

Through you I address all Muslim brothers. We are all followers of one religion and sons of one homeland. Holy war against one's own brothers, against Muslims, against fellow Afghans, is a great sin. The killing of a Muslim by a Muslim is a great sin. Do not condemn yourself to the burning fires of hell.

We attach a major role to organizing the self-defense of enterprises, departments, residential areas, and [words indistinct] for the defense of the city and Kabul Province. The self-defense forces major duties are to secure discipline and order, and to be vigilant against the irreconcilable spirit of enemy conspiracies.

These duties as a whole are the concern of residential patrols. We should restore the previous honors to the sectors and residential National Front organizations. There are now 100 sectors in Kabul. The sector activists must make themselves aware of any new individuals who come into the area and have him make clear what his purpose is in coming there. Sector activists should watch that houses not be rented to suspicious individuals.

A vigilant patrol in the sector solves many of the social order problems, safeguards the security of houses, and discovers where weapons are hidden. Therefore, decisions will be made to pay extra wages to the sector representatives. They displayed their activities and the possibilities of working with the local people during the election.

We should organize the work in such away that if an unexpected situation occurs in the sector, the area representative responds immediately. The proper menthod is as follows: The executive and party committees must include sector representatives in their activities, regularly hold sessions with them, listen to their views, and jointly solve the issues. These are the duties of the village chiefs, subdistrict governors, and district leaderships. Is there anybody aside from the country's elders and chiefs who knows when the bands, the groups will decide to shell Kabul city? If this happens, then those responsible for the residential areas must answer.

We count on your help and assistance to expose and prevent mishaps in a timely fashion. With your assistance we must reinforce the special zones. The following regions are included in this zone: Shakar Darreh, Paghman, Lalandar, Khak-e Jabbar, Kuh-e Safi and Deh Sabz. The inhabitants of these regions must have full confidence that the government will not leave them exposed to the attacks by the opposition.

Only in these circumstances will the people not support the extremists. They will give them a crushing response. We should organize in such a way that the inhabitants have the ppportunity and desire to report the extremists' plans to you, to army posts, and to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. As far as recruitment is concerned, this has been done on a volunteer basis in Kabul city and province. In the last 2 months in Kabul alone 10,000 youths have been recruited.

I have spoken earlier about new privileges for Army personnel. This is the sacred duty of every genuine Afghan. We have placed our hopes on the elders and clergy regarding the progress of this peacemaking activity. During the period of national reconciliation a number of opposition groups have come over to the side of the government in Kabul Province. Some 8,467 refugees have returned to Kabul city and province.

As messengers of peace you can extinguish the fire of war and end bloody disputes. You know the laws, traditions, and customs of our ancestors and how they reconciled the opposition parties and secured peace and calm in the villages and among the tribes.

I am fully aware of the illustrious peacemaking activity of figures in the provinces and in Kabul city, which are commendable. I can name some of them: (Mawlawi 'Abdullah Kalakani); Esteemed Mawlawi 'Abdul Salam Khadam; Esteemed (Sayd Mahbob Agha); Esteemed (Mawlawi 'Abdul Shokur); Esteemed (Dost Muhammad Khan); and Esteemed ('Abdul Razaq).

The representatives of the armed opposition are still part of our people and the sons of our beloved country, Afghanistan. We are have one single homeland. What is preventing the ending of fratricide? The government and local organs have given you the necessary authority to begin talks with opposition representatives for reciprocal agreements and the restoration of peace. I ask almighty God to grant you success. Thank you for your attention. [end recording]

Najibullah Visits Qarghah Security Posts

LD1008222988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, the president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan, visited some security posts in Qarghah and instructed officials on strengthening the Kabul security perimeter. Esteemed Najibullah, commander in chief of the Afghan Armed Forces, was accompanied by Interior Minister Lieutenant General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy and Lieutenant General Shanawaz Tanay, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces. They were met by the first deputy of the Armed Forces Political Department, the commander the 8th Division, the head of the Political Department, and other divisional officials.

The divisional commander briefed them on the military situation and the combat and security activities of the division's units and contingents and the other security posts in the Kabul security perimeter.

President Najibullah was then briefed on the Artillery Brigade's security posts in the Qarghah area of the Kabul security perimeter, and on the soldiers' living conditions, quarters, and combat activities.

Esteemed Najibullah drew the soldiers' attention to their duties and obligations to ensure peace and calm and to disrupt the extremists' conspiracies in the country's current situation.

Esteemed Najibullah, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, instructed the 8th Divisions's leadership and other officials to work responsibly to improve the soldiers' living conditions and welfare and to consolidate the Kabul security perimeter's posts and positions.

'Abdul Ghaffar, a volunteer soldier in the Artillery Brigade, promised Esteemed Najibullah he would work on combat morale and struggle to discharge his duties to ensure peace and safeguard the country and the people's interests.

On behalf of the divisional leadership, the 8th Division commander assured Esteemed Najibullah that they would work diligently to improve the soldiers' living conditions, expand peace and security, and strengthen the units and contingents' combat morale in the campaign against the extremists.

Foreign Minister Sends Messages to Iran, Iraq

LD1108053888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0432 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 10, BAKHTAR—Minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan sent messages addressed to Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Iraq, and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the acceptance and observance of Resolution Number 598 of the UN Security Council by Iraq and Iran.

The message expressed support of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan to Resolution 598 of the UN Security Council for the just and peaceful political solution of conflict between the two Islamic countries.

The message hoped that the direct talks is the only effective and shortest way for the ensurance of a durable peace and elimination of tension and the creation of a peaceful atmosphere and good neighbourly relations between the states of the region.

India

Two Pakistani 'Intruders' Killed in Punjab 9 Aug

BK1008160588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Two Pakistani intruders and a terrorist were among the four people killed in Punjab since last night. In Tarn Taran, police shot dead an unidentified terrorist in Dudabal village this morning.

Security forces also arrested two terrorists in Amritsar District. One person was killed in village Lahorki of Amritsar District.

Official Notes U.S. Silence on Gandhi Proposals

BK1108101988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, told the Rajya Sabha today that India's three-stage nuclear disarmament program has received the unanimous approval of the countries visited by the prime minister recently. The program was proposed by Mr Rajiv Gandhi to the United Nations at its special session on disarmament.

Replying to questions, Mr Natwar Singh said while the Soviet Union has welcomed the proposals, the United States has so far maintained a silence.

Mr Natwar Singh expressed a hope that the plan would be further discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries at Nicosia.

Canada Extends Cooperation To Combat Terrorism

BK1008092588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Canada has assured New Delhi of its continued cooperation in combating terrorist activities directed against India. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.K. Tiwari, told the Lok Sabha today that the Canadian Government is extending full cooperation within the ambit of its laws. He told members that the government is aware of the organizations operating from Canadian soil. There is also evidence of assistance provided by some Canadian nationals for terrorist activities in Punjab. This matter has been taken up with the Canadian authorities. He declined to give details.

Intervening briefly, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said of all countries Canada is extending the maximum cooperation. He requested members not to say anything that will create difficulties for the Canadian Government.

Amendment Seeks To Deter Illegal Use of Weapons

BK0908160588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The Lok Sabha today passed an amendment to the arms act aimed at giving deterrent punishment for illegal use of various types of arms and ammunition. The bill, which seeks to replace a recent ordinance, also provides for capital punishment for causing death with illegal weapons. The house rejected a statutory resolution against the ordinance moved by Mrs Geeta Mukherjee, CPI. The minister of state for home, M P. Chidambaram, who piloted the bill, said the government will consider granting of licenses for semi-automatic weapons only in the most deserving cases.

Earlier, during the discussion members from both sides urged the government to give licenses for arms to those fighting the terrorists.

Amnesty International Charges Against PKF Rejected

BK1008132588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The government has rejected the charges made against the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in a report of the Amnesty International. In a written reply the Lok Sabha was informed today that wild allegations of rape and brutality were made against the PKF. Many of the allegations in the report were made by the LTTE and most of them could not be substantiated.

The government made it clear that every specific complaint about the behavior of the PKF troops has been investigated. Most charges have been found to be baseless.

The House was informed that where such charges have been proved, quick action has been taken against the guilty.

President To Visit Europe, Cyprus 12-22 Sep
BK1008151988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, will be paying a 10-day state visit to the Netherlands, Finland, Cyprus, and Czechoslovakia next month. The dates of his visit were announced through an official press release issued in New Delhi today.

Mr Venkataraman leaves New Delhi for the Dutch capital—The Hague—on 12 September on the first of a state visit by an Indian president to this West European country. After a 3-day visit to the Netherlands, the president will visit Finland from the 14th to 17th.

The third country on the president's itinerary is Cyprus where he will spend 4 days.

Mr Venkataraman will be in Czechoslovakia for 3 days on the last leg of his tour before returning home on the 22d.

Official Discusses Prototype Breeder Reactor
BK1108081988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The government proposes to build a 500-megawatt prototype fast breeder reactor by 2000 AD. The minister of state for science and technology, Mr K. R. Narayanan, told the Rajya Sabha today during question time that a number of such reactors will be constructed after the successful commissioning of this reactor. Answering supplementaries, he said fuel for these reactors will be obtained by reprocessing irradiated uranium discharged from the pressurized heavy water reactors and by recovering plutonium bred in the fast breeder reactor itself.

Atomic Energy Official on Nuclear Projects
BK0508101588 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 88 p 1, 12

[By Rajendra Prabhu]

[Text] Bombay, July 23—Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Dr M. R. Srinivasan has refuted the charge that India was stockpiling plutonium for "nuclear bombs in the basement."

In an extensive interview with this correspondent at the headquarters of the Department of Atomic Energy [DAE] next door to the Gateway of India, Dr Srinivasan said that "quite a lot of plutonium would be needed for starting the fast breeder reactors when we would commission them in the next seven or nine years. He estimated the requirement at 2,000 to 4,000 kg for the 500 mw fast breeder reactors.

The Nuclear Power Corporation under the DAE was planning to build at least two fast breeder reactors of 500 mw capacity each in the coming decade and more would be built in the first and second decades of the 21st century. Plutonium is obtained by reprocessing the waste fuel rods from the first generation thermal power plants which use natural uranium as fuel. Plutonium is part of the fuel that would be fed into the fast breeder reactors. Though Dr Srinivasan did not specify it, India's existing reprocessing facility at Tarapur is stated to produce just 25 kg of plutonium in a year. One more reprocessing plant is coming up at Kalpakkam, Madras.

"If you have to use this much plutonium, you have to accumulate it over the years, not overnight," the Commission chief who is also Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy, said.

Referring to the allegations in the Western Press regarding clandestine import of heavy water Dr Srinivasan said that they appear to be motivated to malign India. It was "evident we do not have to do any such thing," he stressed recalling the capacity in this complex technology already built up through various heavy water plants at Nangal, Tuticorin, Baroda, Talcher, Kota, Thal etc. Indian heavy water capacity was now next only to that of Canada, the world's largest heavy water producer, he added.

The Commission Chairman stoutly denied any attempt by the DAE to underestimate nuclear power generation cost.

While he did not want to enter into a controversy with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India whose report on the Madras Atomic Power Plant had doubted the cost estimates of the DAE for nuclear power generation, Dr Srinivasan pointed out that any attempt to subsidise nuclear power could not be hidden as the subsidies would build up into a large sum when as much as Rs 13,000 crore were being spent on the 10,000 mw nuclear power programme. "We are not subsidising nuclear power. We have no intention to underestimate it either," he said.

Justifying the decision to accept the Soviet offer for two 1000 mw each nuclear power plants to be located in southern tip of Tamil Nadu, Dr Srinivasan said that this was needed to meet the power shortage which would still be there at the end of the coming decade despite our own thermal and nuclear power programme.

The safeguards accompanying the Soviet offer "do not in any way take away our self-reliance" as it would be in addition to what we were doing, he contended.

The Russian reactors we were getting were "different from the types at Chernobyl" one of which blew its top two years ago. Dr Srinivasan explained that the reactors would be pressurised light water reactors (PWR) and would not have the graphite moderator of the Chernobyl type.

"The safety standards will be ours," the DAE chief emphasised and "our own safety people would be using it." "If required, additional features would be incorporated," he added.

This correspondent, however, learns that there is a great deal of apprehension among Indian nuclear scientists on the Government decision. Many top people believe this to have been a political one. Dr Raja Ramanna had opposed the acceptance of the offer. His predecessor Dr H.N. Sethna was also not interested in it.

In a strong defence of nuclear power, Dr Srinivasan insisted that our reactors had been built on the principle of "fail safe." This correspondent, for instance, saw in the Dhurva reactor at Trombay the fail safe system at work of how neutron absorbing cadmium rods would drop into the fuel core within one second of an anomaly building up. Further, how a pressure build up would be automatically eased through a fall in the level of water in which the reactor is kept. Even if the operators are all sleeping, the reactor system would stop dead within a few seconds of any anomaly building up," Dhruva operating superintendent Veraraghavan explained.

Dr Srinivasan also refuted that there were doubts in any segment of Government over the capacity of the DAE to reach the 10,000 mw target for nuclear power by the turn of the century. "I have seen no such doubt anywhere in any branch of the Government", he insisted. We have a high level of confidence" that the Nuclear Power Corporation would reach the target. He said "real improvements would be seen very soon both in regard to planning and execution and gestation period will be reduced."

Projecting an optimistic scenario for nuclear power in the 21st century, the Atomic Energy Commission Chairman said that worldwide the share of nuclear power would go up to 30 to 40 percent of the total energy output in the first few decades of that century. The present level is 16 percent.

Energy planning in each country would have to follow its resource position and distribution but even in the well and widely endowed country like United States, there were already 100 nuclear reactors working. In Soviet Union where fossil resources were concentrated in far off Siberia, nuclear power was being pursued. In France where there was hardly any fossil fuel, 25 to 30 percent of primary energy was from nuclear sources at present and was going to be 75 percent soon. Japan was also moving ahead.

To those who were raising fears of ecological and environmental dangers from nuclear power, Dr Srinivasan asked whether coal based power plants were any safer. Apart from environmental dangers of coal dust, fly ash and largescale mining, coal for us was required as fuel for furnaces and domestic cooking to replace precious wood. In areas far from coal fields, "Nuclear energy is the economic alternative" with solar and wind energy still being not economic for large-scale use. With a power shortage already at our doorstep, to deny ourselves nuclear energy would be to accept the fact that "we will not be able to supply energy in future even to the extent we do today," the Commission Chairman asserted.

"It is in this context that nuclear power is relevant," Dr Srinivasan who had earlier overseen the setting up of nuclear power reactors af five different locations, said. A few minutes before this interview, he had given the go ahead signal for work on the Kaiga atomic power plant in Karnataka, the sixth India is building in a series of 12 such plants to come up in the next 12 years. "The sites for the new plants would be soon announced," he said.

Briefs

Natural Gas Discovered

Natural gas accumulations have been found in the desert areas of western Rajasthan. The discovery has been made by the Oil India Limited—OIL—in Tanot Well No 1, located at a distance of 145 km from Jaisalmer. The open-flow potential is estimated to be more than 140,000 cubic meters per day. The area, adjacent to the existing well, promises to have larger quantities of gas. OIL plans to drill six exploratory wells in the region. [Text] [*BK1108091588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Aug 88*]

Oil Struck in Tanjore

Oil has been struck in the fourth well at Narimanam in Tanjore District of Tamil Nadu. The yield is about 350 barrels a day. According to Oil and Natural Gas Commission sources in Madras, the oil is of good quality. The discovery of oil in the fourth well in the inland Cauvery basin is significant as it brightens the prospects of Narimanam structure. [Text] [*BK1008035788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Aug 88*]

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Defense Conference

LD1008192788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The international conference of aggression and defense ended this afternoon with a speech by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief. [passage omitted]

In a comprehensive speech he thanked the conference participants and expressed the hope that its results may have an effect on the future and on international relations. He noted the special features of the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, and described the situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the victory of the revolution, particularly with respect to military power. He noted the military readiness of the Iraqi regime to

start the war and Iran's lack of readiness following the Islamic Revolution to become involved, and also the position adopted by international powers and regional countries regarding the Iraqi aggression against Iran.

He said: Our basic problem here is the lack of qualified people in power around the world, because if appropriate people were in charge, they could safeguard justice without resorting to the present regulations. However, considering the people presently in power and ruling the world, no matter how just the law, we cannot ensure justice in the world. [passage omitted]

Criticizes Superpowers

LD1108065488 Tehran IRNA in English 0615 GMT 11 Aug 88

["Speaker Strongly Critical of U.S., Soviet on Position Toward War"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in an address to the closing session of the conference on aggression and defence here Wednesday said the Iraqi imposed war was unequal for the Baghdad regime was backed by world powers.

More on nature of Iraq-Iran war he said the Baghdad regime enjoying the backing and encouragement of big powers waged the war on a country (Iran) which had just come out of the revolution. Even prior to the 1979 Islamic Revolution, he said, Iraq always maintained its combat readiness.

Iran had a similar position in pre-revolution period and was even more powerful than Iraq militarily, he said, adding after the revolution this changed and Iran did not possess the military power it used to have. This, he said, was partly due to absence of foreign military experts, scraping of military contracts and dismissal of many U.S.-aligned Army chiefs.

When the war broke out even the international bodies kept silent, the Soviet Union as Iran's neighbor made no move and the southern Persian Gulf states were even pleased with occupation of Iranian territory, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces told the gathering comprising some 200 scholars and scientists from 20 countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces told the conference that throughout the course of the 8-year-old Iraq-Iran war, the Islamic Republic of Iran has observed humanitarian principles. Although the Iranian Air Force was far more powerful than that of Iraq, it carried out all its missions with the minimal harm on civilians.

On the contrary, since the start of the war the Baghdad regime took the Iranian civilians as its target and also captured civilians in war-stricken cities and took them to Iraq as POW's. These civilians still remain in Iraq, he told the conference.

Throughout the war the Islamic principles and values have been observed by the Muslim forces of Iran. This, he told the guests, is a victory for the Iranian revolution. "We consider ourselves victorious and consider those who have taken an unjust stance towards the war as defeated," he said.

More on reasons for Iraq's war he said both the East and the West were annoyed with the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the reactionary regimes of the region considered it a threat on themselves and the people of Iraq were being inspired by the Iranian revolution. In a bid to crush the Islamic Revolution and solve all these problems Iran was attacked, he added.

Faced with all these plots, the Iranian people put up a fierce struggle and resistance and this is an unprecedented source of pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said that all along Iran has been after justice and now that it has accepted the UN Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the war, it is after the same principle.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope the comittee to identify the aggressor party in the Iraq-Iran war, will carry out its task rightfully.

On repeated Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons against Iran in the course of the war he said even after Iran's acceptance of the resolution on July 18, Iraq in several occasions has used these weapons against Iran's civilian population.

Although Iran was easily capable of manufacturing and deploying these weapons it did not do so because of its deep respect for humanitarian and Islamic principles, said the speaker.

On the situation in the Persian Gulf, he said Iran has always been for security of the region and rejected foreign presence in the region. One tragic consequence of presence of foreign forces, including those of the U.S. was the downing of the Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf on July 3 which claimed lives of all the 290 people on board.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani lashed out at Western statesmen in their dealing with world issues and said their policies were neither defendable nor justifiable.

As for the Soviets he said in the course of the war it supplied 70-80 percent of Iraqi arms and therefore they (the Soviets) share the Iraqi crimes.

"The Soviets are openly asking us to support the subservient government in Afghanistan so that they would stop providing so much arms to Iraq. They are directly telling us "Afghanistan for Iraq." However, we will not step down from our principles and the conscious world understands what we say, he told the conference.

On Iran's stance towards the UN vis-a-vis the Iraq-Iran war he said Iran's acceptance of the cease-fire provided a new experience to the world. Right after the Iranian move, it became clear to the world that Iraq's peace pleas were nothing but mere lies.

"Iran's accepting of the resolution was not from a position of weakness, it was done for certain reasons," he told the conference. Now the world waits to see whether the resolution which the superpowers played a role in drafting will be fully carried out or not.

"The Iranians are a thankful nation and any one and any country which takes a just step with respect to the war and implementation of the resolution will receive appreciation of the Iranian people," he said.

At the end of the session secretary of the conference, Dr. Kamal Kharrazi summed up the results of the three-day conference in two legal-Islamic and political fields.

From legal-Islamic point of view, he said the discussions held and documents presented, proved the aggressiveness of the Baghdad regime, that the Iraqi regime in addition to launching an aggression against Iran at the start of the war, has committed numerous war crimes in the course of the eight years of the war.

Furthermore, he added, Iraqi crimes are condemned from all aspects, that Iraq must be condemned for having initiated the war and committed various war crimes and must pay reparations. It was also stressed that the existing mechanisms are not sufficient enough to prevent aggressions and there is a need for new regulations and guarantees he pointed.

From political point of view it was concluded that the war was waged against the Islamic Revolution of Iran by Iraq, Dr. Kharrazi said. However, he noted, after the fierce resistance of the Iranians it became internationalised and the U.S. in particular got involved as Iraq's partner.

It was also concluded that superpowers made massive efforts to mobilize countries against Iran. However, after failing to reach the desired result they became involved directly and this became evident after Iran's victory in Al-Faw operations that the superpowers would resort to all economic, political and propaganda means to prevent Iran's victory, he said.

And finally the Islamic Republic of Iran faced with all these aggressions and repeated violations of international regulations by Iraq, had been defending itself and even now after having accepted the resolution continues this defence, said Kharrazi.

Khamene'i Meets With Armed Forces Commanders
LD1108120588 Tehran IRNA in English 1144 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i received Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan, Commander of the Ground Forces Brigadier General Hoseyn Hasani-Sa'di and Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mamsur Sattari, here Wednesday.

During the meeting, the commanders briefed President Khamene'i on the Armed Forces status and the president gave them necessary guidelines.

President Receives Donations for Warfronts
LD1108122388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Excerpts] At ceremonies held this morning, people from all walks of life donated tens of millions of rials in cash, gold, and coins to Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to support the war effort. The president thanked all those who, during the 8 years of sacred defense, had participated in the great holy war of the Iranian nation with their solidarity and cooperation. He said that such sincere participation to help efforts at and behind the front was an astonishing and exceptional effort. [passage omitted]

The Supreme Defense Council chairman added: One of the objectives of global arrogance was to dishearten the people and then to divide them through a long, drawn-out war. [passage omitted]

The president said that during the war the constant donations by the people, whether material or spiritual, stemmed from the people's great motivations. [passage omitted]

The Supreme Defense Council chairman said: We must not trust the deceiving enemy. Therefore, we say that the war is apparently, but not definitely, about to end, because the enemy has proved to be a hypocrite and does not adhere to any humane principles. That is why we cannot assume that the question has been resolved. [passage omitted]

The Supreme Defense Council chairman said that the present phase in Iran's history is a rare phase in human history. He thanked the self-sacrificing sisters and brothers. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Reconstruction, UN Resolution

LD1008113088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, in today's cabinet meeting the most important internal and external events were reviewed and discussed.

The latest policies and positions adopted by the cabinet concerning the plan for the reconstruction of the country were reviewed. The cabinet decided to discuss the necessary programs in the near future.

During the meeting, Mr Mirzadeh, the deputy prime minister, delivered a report on the activities of Account No 222 which was opened by the martyr Raja'i to receive and distribute people's donations. The report stated that during 1986-1987 the sum of approximately 43 billion rials was paid out by Account No 222 for over 50 different purposes pertaining to development projects, welfare, education, relief, reconstruction, and war support. The report expressed appreciation for the large donations and contributions made by people, firms, and banks to this account. The continuation of this assistance was emphasized.

Also, Foreign Minister Velayati, who left the United Nations this morning for Iran [as heard], presented a detailed report to the cabinet on the discussions and activities concerning the implementation of Resolution No 598. In this report, Mr Velayati described the reasons for the failed Iraqi attempts and the weakened position of the representatives of that regime in the negotiations: Iraq and its supporters were taken by surprise by the Islamic Republic of Iran's acceptance of the resolution, the emergence of contradictions and confusion in the diplomacy of the Iraqi regime, the unreasonable and undesirable blackmailing demands of that regime, and most important, the decisive blows of the fighters of Islam in defeating the aggressions of the Iraqi regime along all the fronts.

Velayati Briefs Khamene'i on UN Talks

LD1008165188 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met President 'Ali Khamene'i here Wednesday and presented him a detailed report on his talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Velayati had been in New York for about a fortnight to hold talks with Perez de Cuellar on Security Council Resolution 598.

Talks With Iraq To Follow Algiers Accord

LD1008181188 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Washington, Aug. 10, IRNA—Any future talks with Iraq will only be within the framework of the 1975 Algiers Agreement, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in New York. Iran has formally announced this to the U.N. chief in addition to distributing it as a document among Security Council members, he told IRNA before flying back home early Monday.

On reports that during talks with Iran the Iraqi regime intends to raise the question of its full sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab waterway which marks the southernmost part of their border, Velayati dismissed any such Iraqi claim as "quite hollow," and said no patriotic Iranian will ever accept it.

The two countries exercise joint sovereignty over the waterway and according to the Algiers accord the thalweg which runs in the middle of Shatt al-'Arab marks the Iran-Iraq border, said Velayati stressing that the agreement with all its contents is a valid document accepted by both Iran and the United States.

Reiterating that the Iraqi claim holds no water for Iran, Velayati noted that the channel belongs to both the countries and shipping, dredging and any other kind of exploitation have been included in the Algiers accord. "We will not allow the agreement and its contents to be violated again," he made it clear.

Way back in 1980, three days before his September 22 invasion of the Islamic Republic, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in full view of television cameras, had unilaterally torn down the 1975 Algiers accord, to which ironically he himself had been the signatory.

Later, minutes after Velayati's departure for Tehran, Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati Iran's ambassador to the U.N., said that any direct talks between Iran and Iraq will be according to a certain limited level.

The level will be determined by the U.N. chief, and that Javier Perez de Cuellar would of course propose necessary justifications in this regard according to the contents of Security Council Resolution 598, he concluded.

Envoy to Japan Hails Cease-Fire Announcement

OW0908092488 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 9 KYODO—The Iran-Iraq ceasefire set for August 20 will mark the opening of a new chapter in the history of the Persian Gulf region, Iranian Ambassador to Japan Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli said Tuesday.

"Iran is very much investing in this truce," Adeli told reporters at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan.

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Monday set the date for a cessation of hostilities in the eight-year conflict that Adeli called "one of the bloodiest wars of our century between two neighboring countries."

Even though an estimated one million Iranians and Iraqis died during the fighting, neither side will have made any territorial gains or succeeded in bringing about the fall of the adversary's government.

Adeli stated, however, that Iran was "proud to be able to preserve its dignity, unity, and independence" during a war which he repeatedly said was "imposed on Iran" by Iraq and other countries determined to compromise Iran's "freedom and independence."

"We are for justice and we were seeking justice," Adeli explained. He added that this was the reason Iran decided to opt for the U.N.-brokered ceasefire, despite the fact that Iran did not accept the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 until nearly one year after its passage.

Articles 6 and 7 of the resolution call for the creation of an impartial committee to investigate who was responsible for starting the war.

Questioned about Iran's postwar foreign policy, Adeli said that his country desires "good neighborly relations" and denied that Iran will attempt to exact revenge on those countries that tried to "undermine" the post-shah revolutionary government.

The bearded ambassador said that "very good revenge" would be results of a U.N. investigation showing U.S. responsibility in the shooting down in July of an Iranian Airbus by a U.S. cruiser in the Persian Gulf which resulted in the deaths of 290 people.

Adeli claimed that Iran has no ambitions to channel the revolutionary energy now preoccupied in its war effort into a new drive to export the fundamentalist Islamic revolution to other countries in the region. "We do not intend to do any kind of subversive action in any country or to antagonize or challenge any ruling class or people," Adeli promised, though he repeatedly characterized his country as "the natural leader in the region."

He added, however, that "if (new ideas) are legitimate and have a good basis they will go beyond the frontiers of a country without having any need to push them."

On the holding of U.S. hostages in Lebanon by Islamic fundamentalist groups allegedly associated with Iran, Adeli suggested that Iran "has nothing to do with these affairs" and that "we don't want to see these people kept in these situations." Adeli went on to say, however, that Iran does maintain some influence with the Lebanese people, and that his government's stand is that "if the proper time comes," it will "work on the (hostages) matter."

By accepting the ceasefire, Iran has already taken a big step toward "the appropriate time," Adeli said, adding that now it is "the turn of the United States."

He then referred to Iranian assets in the United States that have been frozen by the U.S. Government as one area in which the U.S. could effectively demonstrate its goodwill toward Iran and thereby improve the atmosphere for the hostages release.

He said Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni has also laid the grounds for "democracy" in Iran over the last 10 years.

He acknowledged that the government had made "a lot of mistakes" in the past due to overzealousness brought on by the revolution. "Many people didn't know how to utilize their freedom of expression," he said.

Japan To Help Postwar Reconstruction Work

LD1108124288 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11 IRNA—Iranian ambassador [Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli] to Tokyo and head of the ruling Japanese Liberal Democratic Party Shintaro Abe today announced the two countries readiness for expansion of mutual cooperation in the post-war reconstruction projects in Iran.

Adeli called on those countries advocating the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 which seeks to end the Iraqi-imposed war to make efforts for fulfilment of justice and the reoslution.

Shintaro Abe announced Tokyo's preparedness to cooperate in establishing an honorable peace and promised that Japan will fully participate in reconstruction projects in Iran.

Further on Visit of Australian Foreign Minister

Meets With Khamene'i

LD1008184188 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Visiting Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Willian G. Hayden called for expansion of Tehran-Canberra ties in a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Wednesday.

Hayden, expressing happiness over cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war, condemned Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons.

In response, President Khamene'i said Iran naturally welcomes promotion of its ties with friendly countries. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i expressed satisfaction with trend of Iran-Australia relations and cooperation.

The president described as "bold and positive", Australia's stance in condemning Iraq for using internationally-banned substances. Such stands, he added, play a key role in the two countries' ties in future. [passage omitted]

Calls on Velayati

LD1008184488 Tehran IRNA in English 1652 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Australian Foreign Affairs Minister William G. Hayden called on Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday and announced his country's keenness to expand its ties with the Islamic Republic.

In response, Velayati expressed Iran's readiness to improve bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect and interest.

In the meeting, the two sides linked a joint statement on Iran-Australia political ties, and stressed the necessity for fully implementing the Resolution 598 as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Omani Minister Hold Talks With Musavi

LD1108113088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi this morning.

At this meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the Omani minister described Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598 as a courageous move and an important step in bringing stability and security to the region.

Describing his talks with the country's political and economic authorities as successful, he said he hopes that the accords between the two countries on the establishment of a joint commission will expand the political, economic, technical, and industrial relations between Iran and Oman.

Referring to his visit to the Jame' Mosque in Esfahan, which was damaged by Iraqi air attacks, the Omani minister said this monument is one of the cultural and historical treasures of the world of Islam. He appreciated the efforts of the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to restore the mosque.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi described the Omani minister's visit to Iran at this sensitive juncture as important, stressing that the aggressive mentality of the superpowers and their designs might pose future threats to the region. He said: In our view we must adopt preventive measures against these dangers by maintaining our guard and by establishing positive relations in the region. The prime minister also stressed that we must expand our relations in all fields and continue to exchange views on the security of the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean which can only be provided by the countries of the region.

Commentary Questions Reasons for Gulf War

LD1008144288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Political commentary entitled "Announcement of the Cease-Fire Date and the Need for Alertness and Vigilance of Islam's Fighters"]

[Excerpts] After the announcement of the cease-fire date for the imposed war by the UN secretary general yesterday and the Security Council's support for the decision, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in a message to the fighters of Islam, stressed the need for readiness and vigilance of the fighters as a guarantee for a lasting peace. He declared: The Islamic Republic of Iran will not take any military initiatives in order to safeguard the interests of the two countries as we are on the threshold of peace. Moreover, we will honor the agreement and decision to establish peace. [passage omitted]

The interesting point about setting a date for the cease-fire is that the implementation of a cease-fire is the first step toward achieving peace in the imposed war. Implementation of a lasting peace depends on the readiness and constant vigilance of the fighters of Islam and the implementation of all articles of UN Resolution No 598, particularly Article 6. Implementation of other articles of the resolution, such as withdrawal to international borders, exchange of POWs, naming the aggressor, and the other articles should be implemented exactly and methodically. The delay in the announcement of a cease-fire date, thanks to the obstructions of the Iraqi regime, might be repeated in the implementation of other articles of Resolution No 598. The UN secretary general should therefore make use of the means at his disposal and, by relying on the support of the Security Council, should pave the way for the resolution's proper implementation. [passage omitted]

By setting a specific date for the cease-fire, the first step was taken to end the imposed war, a war begun by the Iraqi regime 8 years ago in order to defeat the Islamic Revolution of Iran and to separate Khuzestan from Islamic Iran. The war inflicted countless losses on the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq. Has it been forgotten who initiated the war and how? How can the oppressed Iraqi people forget the actions of a regime which tried to impose an 8-year war on the two innocent nations of Iran and Iraq in order to realize baseless dreams of the Qadisiyah commander [region in Iraq where the last battle between the Arab forces of Caliph 'Umar and Persian empire troops took place and led to the collapse of the empire; Saddam Husayn attacked Iran by calling himself the new commander of Qadisiyah]? It is not surprising to see now that by declaring 3 days of national celebrations in Iraq in the wake of the cease-fire date, the Iraqi regime is trying to cover up its defeats and

failures. The people of Iraq should ask the Saddam regime which of this regime's objectives in imposing the war on the Islamic Revolution of Iran were achieved to warrant such celebrations?

In the last part of his message, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, addressed the fighters of Islam as follows: Today Islamic Iran is proud before God for performing its holy duty of defending justice, and the Iraqi Ba'thists should answer God and the people as to why they kindled the fire of war and what they gained from it.

Iraq Massacres Survivors of 16 Apr Toxic Bombing
LD1008194988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Excerpts] IRNA reports that a prisoner who has succeeded in escaping from the prisons of the regime ruling Iraq has revealed that after chemically bombing Kurdish villages in northern Iraq, the aggressor Iraqi regime transferred through deception 320 injured victims to Irbil prison and then massacred them all.

According to this report the officials of the Iraqi regime, after chemically bombing a Kurdish region in northern Iraq 16 April 1988, began to round up the injured victims of this horrible crime from the villages of (Shaykh Vasan), (Balisan), and (Kanibard). They were transferred by Army trucks to Irbil prison, where they were kept for several days without food or medicine. They were kept in that state until they died a slow death. [passage omitted]

The witness adds: Within 5 days of entering the prison, 56 of the victims died, 30 of whom were children.

According to the report, the remainder of these people were martyred by the security forces of the Zionist regime, and then were all buried in a mass grave in the region of (Rashin) near Irbil.

Tudeh Representative Reviews Present Situation
PM0808142688 London MORNING STAR in English 8 Aug 88 pp 6-7

[Article by Tudeh Party representative Mohammad Amid: "Peace That Has Yet To Be Won"]

[Text] After eight years of bloodshed, the last chapter of the Iran-Iraq war is now being written in yet more bloodshed and destruction.

On July 18 Iran's President Khamene'i, in a letter to the United Nations Secretary General, announced the Islamic Republic's unconditional acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598.

The Western media has since produced various analyses and evaluations of the war which fall short of giving an objective analysis of the situation, in particular with respect to Iran.

On September 22, 1980, within the framework of a US-Israeli plot, the Iran-Iraq war was started with Iranian territory being occupied by invading forces from Iraq.

All the patriotic and democratic forces in Iran saw it as their duty to defend the homeland and many patriotic army officers played a decisive role in the repulsion of the invading army.

A golden chance for peace was presented in June 1982. The Iraqi army was heavily defeated on the battlefields and driven back across the border, leaving Iran in a very strong position to end the war.

But the religious leaders—in particular Ayatollah Khomeyni committed the biggest treachery against Iran's national interests by pursuing an expansionist war into Iraqi territory.

The aim was the overthrow of the Iraqi regime and the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Iraq.

Their calculation was based on the assumption that 60 percent of the Iraqi population are Shi'ite Muslims and that they would rise at Khomeyni's call.

Time soon proved this childish calculation to be utterly incorrect.

Our party at the time clearly stated that the continuation of the war was against the national interests of our country. The regime, in return, accused the party of being the "voice of foreign powers" because we were demanding peace and an end to the war.

They soon found, however, that our party's activities were a serious threat. As a result, they outlawed the party in 1983 and arrested more than 10,000 leaders, members and supporters of the party, many of whom have been executed or killed under torture.

With an all-Iranian thrust into Iraq, the war changed from being a defensive war on the part of Iran into being a war of aggression.

As a result the Iraqi army was able to consolidate its defensive position and the war soon turned into one of attrition.

The Iranian forces were able to occupy parts of Iraq, such as Al-Faw, Shalamcheh, Majnun Island and Halabjah, but each of these military operations resulted in the killing of tens of thousands of young Iranians.

The continuation of the war has resulted in more than one million casualties, the destruction of hundreds of cities and towns, tens of thousands of prisoners of war and the economic destitution of both countries.

Furthermore the continuation of the war has helped the long- and short-term plans of the US and its NATO allies in our region.

A year ago the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 598 calling for a cease-fire, the return of the armies to the internationally recognised borders of 1975, an exchange of POWs and the beginning of peace negotiations.

At the time all the patriotic forces of our country, including the party, called upon the people to force the regime into accepting this resolution to end the war.

The leaders of the Islamic Republic, taking into account that Iran had the upper hand in the war and was occupying parts of Iraq, put forward unacceptable preconditions such as the overthrow and trial of Saddam Husayn.

This effectively blocked the peace process. At the time they accused the party of propagating the "imperialist line."

It is important to note that US imperialism used the Iranian regime's policy of continuing the war to strengthen its military presence in the Persian Gulf and to become more and more involved in the conflict.

The US attacks on the Iranian navy and the shooting down of the Iranian Airbus, which were called "proportional defensive responses" by the Reagan administration, resulted in the killing of hundreds of people.

The world's media called the Iranian decision to agree to UN Resolution 598 sudden and unexpected.

But as far as we were concerned it didn't come as a shock. On June 9 1988 our party's politburo stated:

"Time has proved the futility of the Iran-Iraq war to the people of our homeland. This in turn has become an important factor in alienating the masses from the regime and driving increasingly large numbers of people into opposition".

"We believe that the real reason behind the recent developments is the deep anxiety felt by the ruling faction, headed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ahmad Khomeyni (the Ayatollah's son), about the future of the regime after Khomeyni's death.

"This is at a time when the regime's war policy has been discredited and the Islamic Republic has a deepening socio-economic crisis on its hands."

"The most important conclusion which may be drawn from the recent developments is the fact that the regime is increasingly becoming unstable..."

Our party's analysis correctly put the emphasis on three main issues:
The people were no longer prepared to go to the war fronts for "martyrdom";
The deep socio-economic crisis had been deepened by effective Iraqi air strikes against Iranian ports and oil terminals;
Contradictions between the ruling factions had intensified and seriously affected the revolutionary guards and the army.

It was under such conditions that the Hashemi-Rafsanjani - Ahmad Khomeyni faction started secret negotiations with the US and other Western countries under the smokescreen of the "hostage issue."

The Ayatollah Khomeyni, meanwhile, was resisting the call for an end to the war. "Only after my death can you go ahead with peace," he said.

But his health deteriorated rapidly and his brief appearance on television clearly showed the severity of his illness.

We wrote that: "Khomeyni is no longer able to think or make important decisions. He is but a tool in the hands of his son and his ally Hashemi-Rafsanjani..."

The Hashemi-Rafsanjani - Khomeyni faction then moved to install Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the acting commander of the Iranian armed forces. This was immediately opposed by the other faction.

In order to consolidate their grip on power Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khomeyni forced Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Revolutionary Guards, to appear on television "confessing to mistakes" which led to the military defeats in Al-Faw and Shalamcheh.

They also published a report about a large-scale arms sales scandal within the revolutionary guards and announced the despatching of the top commanders of the guards to the war fronts.

Meanwhile, the Revolutionary Guards responsible for Ayatollah Khomeyni's personal safety were all replaced without any explanation and most of the sensitive ministries were barricaded.

We believe that several leading commanders of the Revolutionary Guards, taking into account the widespread opposition of the people, were planning a coup which was unsuccessful.

Some of these commanders have been arrested. Others have fled the country.

On Sunday, July 17 a meeting was convened with the participation of Ahmad Khomeyni and Tavasoli, the powerful head of the "Imam's office," as well as other leading figures to make a decision about the UN resolution.

The world's media has given different versions about Ayatollah Khomeyni's role. We believe that as a result of old age and severe illness, he is unable to take any crucial decisions. The brains behind his "court" are his son and Tavasoli.

In a statement issued on July 18 the central committee of the party stated:

"Undoubtedly, the climbdown by the reactionary leaders of the Islamic Republic, and their surrendering to the demands of the majority of the people for cease-fire and negotiations, is a great victory for the working people of our country...."

The losers are the criminal regimes of both Iran and Iraq who are responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of young people, as well as those forces who in one way or another have supported them.

In our view the ending of the war will create more favourable conditions for the mobilisation of the people against the Iranian regime.

This clearly worries the regime which is already planning a new wave of oppression to stop the spread of opposition.

The main issue now is whether the progressive forces can seize this opportunity to mount a united challenge against the regime.

"We once again warn however, that this is just the beginning. The struggle must continue with ever greater intensity.

The fight to end the war is not over. Peace, closely intertwined with democratic freedoms, is the main and fundamental demand of our people, particularly as the regime has tied its continued rule to terror repression and war.

Feda'iyan Issues Statement on Executions

LD0908215488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Statement by the Central Committee of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq of Iran, Majority Wing]

[Text] Any trial and prosecution of those who opposed and boycotted the war, and of deserters, NCO's, conscripts, or persecuted groups should cease immediately. Arise against the criminal mass executions of political prisoners! We condemn with anger and revulsion the seeking of revenge by against the Mojahedin-e Khalq.

Heroic Iranian people! Finally, three weeks after the criminal Khomeyni regime submitted to Resolution 598, the regime ruling over Iraq was also forced to give in to the will of the people of Iraq and all peace-loving humanity and expressed readiness to accept the cease-fire. However, while the pressure of your incessant struggles made possible the cease-fire announcement and the war's end, the leaders of the regime in total cruelty and savagery, in the midst of people's joy at the announcement of the cease-fire, carried out more vengeful, savage plans to suppress the progressive forces and anyone who has opposed the war's continuation.

During the past few months, when the defeat of the regime's warmongering policies became clearer, arrests, torture, and mass executions of the strugglers and the opponents of war and despotism were intensified.

Dear compatriots, noble Iranian people, Khomeyni's regime has started to massacre your imprisoned children. Khomeyni's regime has begun mass executions of your revolutionary and struggling children even while the bloodbath at the fronts has not yet ended. Akhund [pejorative term for religious leader] Ardebili, the man in charge of the Supreme Judicial Council of the criminal, warmongering regime, has openly and officially issued orders for mass executions of political prisoners without trials. Also, under the pretext of military clashes with the Mojahedin in western Iran, the regime has found a good opportunity to implement its vile plan for revenge on the Mojahedin and on your other struggling children. Now it is implementing a new criminal plan.

Once again we repeat our warning that due to its fear for its future and in order to intimidate you and prevent the intensification of your protests and struggles, the regime has engaged in a bloodthirsty massacre of political prisoners, which will continue. During the past few days, seven more strugglers for peace and freedom—cadres and members of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq of Iran, Majority, the Tudeh Party of Iran, and the Mojahedin-e Khalq of Iran have been executed. Fifteen members of Mojahedin-e Khalq were publicly hanged in Bakhtaran Province. The decrees to execute many groups of political prisoners from progressive political organization were approved by the regime's houses of injustice and each day they are quietly carried out.

The bloodthirsty regime is intent on changing your joy over the cease-fire into mourning. Arise with united protests and struggles against these unprecedented crimes and the regime's blind revenge. Do not allow Khomeyni and his tyrannical collaborators to massacre political prisoners.

Peace-loving and freedom-seeking compatriots, now that the cease-fire is approaching, you should intensify your struggles to neutralize the oppressive and vengeful plans of the regime against the opponents of the war and all those who had refrained from assisting in it. The prosecution of all the officers, NCO's, soldiers, and guards for

refusing to adhere to the war policies and war decrees, as well as the prosecution of all conscripts who for any reason avoided military service and going to the fronts and helping the war should be stopped immediately. Prosecution and punishing of families who fled their homes to save their children from the calamity of war should be immediately and completely stopped. All prosecution, bullying, or penalizing of those who fled their homes due to the criminal war should be annulled. The return of all refugees to their homeland without prosecution and with complete security should be guaranteed. Charges against all who have struggled against the war and the warmongers and for the sake of the peace, well-being, and security of the people in any form and shape should be immediately dropped.

Dear compatriots: The regime of the Islamic Republic is not able to resist your united will and determination. To save the lives of political prisoners, arise against unprecedented executions and against the vengeful and oppressive conspiracies of the regime against the progressive forces of the country and the millions of compatriots who opposed the war.

Glory to the martyrs of the masses. Greetings to the political prisoners. Down with the regime of the Islamic Republic!

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq of Iran, Majority Wing, Tuesday, 9 August 1988

Pakistan

Iran's Besharati Arrives To Talk With Ziaul Haq

LD1108092188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati arrived in Islamabad at the head of a political delegation last night on an official visit to Pakistan. According to the Central News Unit, after arriving in Islamabad, the deputy foreign minister said in a brief interview that during this visit he will meet General Ziaul Haq, the president of Pakistan, and submit a message to him from our country's President Khamene'i.

Defense Minister Comments on Equipping Navy

BK1108042388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] Defense Minister Mahmud A. Haroon has said that the Pakistani Navy is being equipped with the latest weapons and equipment in view of India's acquisition of nuclear submarines. Talking to newsmen at Sukkur Airport yesterday, he said the government is trying by every possible means to further strengthen the country's defense preparedness.

Briefs

Ambassador to India

Mr Niaz A. Naik has been appointed Pakistan's ambassador to India. [Text] [*BK0708151288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Aug 88*]

Delhi Says 8 LTTE Men, 2 Indian Soldiers Killed

BK0808031088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, eight LTTE men have been killed in PKF combing operations near Vavuniya, about 200 km northeast of Colombo. Two PKF soldiers also died in the fighting on Saturday. In another incident at Mulai near Jaffna town, the LTTE shot dead a senior police official. The superintendent of police was on his way to Jaffna when his vehicle was ambushed yesterday. The PKF has moved into the area to search for the culprits. hl

Gandhi 'a Little Tired' of LTTE; Steps Up Pressure

BK0908094188 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 9 Aug 88

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 9 (AFP)—India has stepped up military pressure on Tamil separatist guerrillas in a bid to break resistance to a peace pact and stage elections in Sri Lanka's troubled provinces, officials said Tuesday.

Intense search operations by a 49,000-strong Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dominant separatist group, have been underway since Saturday, a military spokesman here said.

The renewed offensive came as New Delhi and the LTTE blamed each other for stifling peace efforts aimed at ending the 10-month bush war in the island's Tamil-dominated Northern and multi-ethnic Eastern Provinces.

Indian officials here said Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene appeared to be keen to press ahead with provincial council elections in the two regions despite Tiger resistance to a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord.

"The IPKF operation is to disarm those who refuse to be disarmed and restore law and order for elections to be held," a senior Indian official said.

Mr. Jayewardene told a public meeting here last week that he hoped to hold elections in the two provinces within a "few weeks" and set up provincial councils, which would have greater autonomy than existing urban councils.

Provincial councils are in line with the peace accord and have been set up in seven of the island's nine provinces.

"It is for the Tamils to somehow get the political process started and hope the LTTE will eventually see reason and take part in democratic processes," Indian High Commissioner Jyothindra Nath Dixit said in a recent interview.

Political analysts here see the IPKF operations to penetrate remaining Tiger defences as a first step in realising Mr. Jayewardene's goal of holding elections in the north and east.

"There is a definite increase in the Indian Army operations in the two provinces since Saturday. They have also rounded up a large number of LTTE allies," the Sri Lankan spokesman told AFP.

Local troops at the borders of the two provinces have been placed on maximum alert to keep the Tigers from infiltrating into areas where the Sinhalese, the main ethnic group in Sri Lanka, live, Sri Lankan defence sources said.

"With the pressure mounting in the north and east, there is a strong possibility that the Tigers will try to escape to neighbouring Sinhalese areas and possibly attack civilians to take the heat off them," a defence official said.

LTTE men fought a gunbattle with Indian soldiers in northern Mullaitivu District Saturday, killing two soldiers and losing eight guerrillas in what officials here described as the bloodiest confrontation in recent months.

After the clash, the curfew in troubled areas was advanced by an hour to keep guerrillas from taking up positions before dark, the spokesman said.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi last week said in the southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu, a predominantly ethnic Tamil state, that he was a "little tired" of the Tigers.

Within four days of Mr. Gandhi's remarks, Tamil Nadu police pounced on Tiger activists there and arrested about 154 suspected LTTE men and shut down a dozen offices run by the group in the state.

In a simultaneous raid, Indian troops in Sri Lanka swooped down on the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) office in northern Jaffna Peninsula, the military spokesman said.

EROS is an LTTE ally but is also one of five major militant groups which have accepted the July peace plan aimed at ending the separatist campaign.

Indian troops stationed in Sri Lanka under the peace pact launched a major offensive October 10 to disarm the LTTE after the group rejected the plan.

Since then, more than 550 Indian soldiers and over 2,000 suspected LTTE activists have died in fighting.

TELO Leader Reported Killed in Colombo by LTTE

BK1008113988 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The TELO leader of Vavuniya was shot dead in Colombo on Monday night by two gunmen believed to be LTTE terrorists. Police told LANKAPUVATH that an identity card and other documents found on his body showed that the victim was Gunasekharan Udaykumar, the TELO leader in Vavuniya.

Udaykumar was followed by the gunmen as he left the hotel in Kotahena. He was shot by them when he took refuge in a nearby pharmacy. A score of LTTE hitmen had been reportedly [word indistinct] the TELO's Vavuniya leader after he had issued a series of statements attacking the Tiger.

The police in a raid in the Petta arrested the members of an LTTE hit squad along with an arsenal of weapons. Investigations revealed they had arrived from Jaffna recently on an assignment to eliminate rivals who had sought sanctuary in Colombo.

LTTE Fires at Indian Helicopter; No Casualties

BK1008123188 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] LTTE terrorists fired at an IPKF helicopter at Vavuniya on Monday night. Indian High Commission sources told LANKA PUVATH that there were no casualties or any damage to the helicopter by this attack.

Meanwhile, 70 Jaffna coastal fishermen have been rounded up by the IPKF for violating night fishing restrictions.

Paper Reviews Achievements of Peace Accord

BK0708123088 Colombo SUN in English 26 Jul 88 p 7

[Editorial: "One Year After"]

[Text] The President in his nationally televised interview on Sunday night stressed that the situation in the country has effectively changed after the signing of the Indo-Lanka peace accord exactly a year ago.

Elaborating this view he said that five terrorist groups who have been waging a separatist war against Sri Lanka accepted the accord, won for themselves an amnesty offered by the government and are now in the process of entering into the political mainstream.

On the other hand the President lamented over the intransigent attitude of the LTTE which is refusing to accept the accord and surrender its weapons while waging a bitter battle against the Indian forces deployed here since July last year.

The Tigers therefore, hold the peace process to ransom, while critics and sceptics of the accord quite understandably point an accusing finger at those responsible for restoring normalcy.

Even the chief architect of the accord Lands Minister Gamini Dissanavake did not mince words last week when he blamed the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] for its impotency in restoring peace and normalcy in the country after having deployed over 60,000 troops to tame the handful of Tigers for exactly twelve months this week.

Coinciding with such a despondent response was Indian envoy Dixit's own doomsday prophecy when he reportedly remarked in India that the situation in Sri Lanka has become "grim."

Sri Lankans in general are beginning to blame India for its obvious failure to fulfil its obligations as specified in the Peace Accord.

It has also embarrassed the Sri Lankan Government which confidently and hopefully assigned the IPKF to rid the north and east of an ongoing terrorist blight.

The natural reaction from New Delhi to the critics is about the difficulties in dealing with guerrillas who do not fight a straight battle. While it is a logical and simplistic answer, India cannot overlook the fact that it undertook to restore peace by removing the separatist terrorist with the implicit knowledge about this guerrilla war and having had first-hand information about the Tamil terrorists themselves.

They cannot conceal these facts and try to cover up either their genuine failures or deliberate deceptions in keeping the crisis going, like a beggar who wants his sore never to be healed.

Envoy Dixit refuted such charges last week with a very pertinent argument about the heavy death toll of the IPKF. But then he may not be privy to what the masterminds at RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] have up their sleeve:

The new theory from Delhi that the LTTE is reluctant to return to the political mainstream because it has got used to the 'culture of the gun' is most ironical too.

The Tigers were introduced and trained in this diabolic culture by the Indians themselves. The RAW must surely have the antidote to terminate the cancer germinated in its own test-tubes.

The crisis at hand is however, something totally different and has very little to do with politics in Sri Lanka.

The Indian leadership is not in the mood to antagonise the millions in Tamil Nadu where a crucial state-election is due in a few months' time. Whether they like it or not the Sri Lankan Tamil problem, IPKF deployment and particularly the LTTE's future have become key polls issues.

The cunning Tiger knows this too well and will play for time to gain a maximum concession from India which in turn will want Sri Lanka to make further allowances disguised in sinister diplomatic jargon as they usually do.

This is most condemnable.

Briefs

PRC Education Agreement

The Sri Lanka Government has decided to recognize degrees presented by universities of the People's Republic of China. China has also agreed to recognize degrees presented by local universities. The related agreement was signed at the Ministry of Higher Education this morning. Secretary to the ministry Professor Stanley Kalpage, and the Chinese ambassador, Zhang Rujie, signed the agreement on behalf of the respective governments. [Excerpt] [*BK0908130988 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Aug 88*]